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See Page 13

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When Writing Becomes Another Burden

"I got a letter from the president, I opened and read it… it said we were suckers."

That's a line from a Public Enemy song from the '90s. But today, I wonder if we're not just suckers. I wonder why we've become the enemy.

I've been struggling to come up with something to write about this week. That's not because there's a shortage of news. Quite the opposite, actually. There's so much happening, so much to be angry about, so much to be concerned about, that sometimes I honestly don't know where to begin. And that's a strange place to find myself.

For years, writing these weekly essays has been a way for me to process what's happening around me. Something would catch my attention, I'd turn it over in my head, and eventually I'd sit down and try to make sense of it on paper. Sometimes the result was angry. Sometimes sarcastic. Sometimes I could even find something funny in the absurdity of it all. But more often than not, the process itself was cathartic. I'd get something off my chest, put my thoughts into words, and feel a little better for having done so.

Lately, though, something has changed. The catharsis is becoming a burden. What used to be an opportunity to work through an idea has started to feel like an obligation to produce one. There's a deadline, there's a word count, and there's the nagging feeling that I should have something meaningful to say about whatever fresh hell has unfolded since last week's column.

And the news cycle isn't exactly making this easier. It's one thing to disagree with a president or be frustrated by a particular policy. We've always had political disagreements in this country, and we always will.

But it's something else entirely to feel as though you're constantly bracing yourself for whatever comes next. To watch institutions you once trusted become subjects of debate. To wonder how much of what you thought was settled is suddenly up for grabs. To worry about the direction of the country while simultaneously wondering whether the people around you are worried about the same things.

It's exhausting. And perhaps the most exhausting part is the expectation that we should somehow become accustomed to it. Another controversy. Another outrage. Another headline that would have dominated the news for weeks not so long ago, now replaced within hours by something equally disturbing.

We're expected to absorb it all, form an opinion, argue about it, and move on to the next thing. Rinse and repeat. At some point, you have to wonder what this constant state of agitation is doing to us.

I don't write these essays because I think I have all the answers. I write because I have questions, because I see things that concern me, and because I believe it's worth talking about them. I'm willing to be wrong. I'm willing to change my mind when someone makes a compelling argument. What I struggle with is the feeling that we're losing the ability to have those conversations in the first place.

Everything has become a fight. Disagreement becomes disloyalty. Criticism becomes an attack. And somewhere along the way, simply asking questions has become a political act. Maybe that's part of why writing has started to feel different. It's difficult to find catharsis in trying to make sense of a situation that seems determined to become more bewildering by the day.

But here's the thing: I'm not writing this to ask anyone to feel sorry for me. Nobody owes me an audience, and nobody needs another person telling them how tired they should be. We've all got our own lives, our own worries, and our own burdens to carry. I'm writing it because I suspect I'm not the only one who feels this way.

Maybe you're tired of the news, too. Maybe you've started avoiding conversations because you know where they'll lead. Maybe you find yourself wondering how we got here, or whether the things that concern you are even registering with the people around you. Maybe you're just trying to get through the week, pay your bills, take care of your family, and find a little peace in a world that seems increasingly determined to make that difficult.

And maybe you feel a little guilty for wanting to look away. I know I do sometimes. But looking away doesn't make the problems disappear. And paying attention doesn't mean we have an unlimited supply of emotional energy to devote to them.

Perhaps there's a balance to be found between staying informed and allowing the news to consume us. Between speaking up when something matters and recognizing that we can't personally carry the weight of every injustice, every political fight, and every fresh assault on our sense of what this country ought to be.

I haven't figured out that balance yet. So this week, rather than pretending I have some grand observation that will explain everything, I'm admitting that I'm struggling to find one.

The irony isn't lost on me. I'm writing an essay about how writing essays has become a burden. Somewhere, I'm sure, there's a joke in there about deadlines and the American condition. I'll leave that to someone with more energy this week.

But I do know this: I don't want to become so accustomed to the things that trouble me that they stop troubling me. I don't want exhaustion to become indifference, or frustration to become resignation. And I don't want to confuse being overwhelmed by the state of the world with having nothing left to say about it.

Maybe the point isn't that we have to find something new to be outraged about every week. Maybe it's that we have to find a way to remain engaged without allowing the things we care about to consume us entirely.

I still believe paying attention matters. I still believe speaking up matters. And I still believe there's value in trying to make sense of things, even when the answers aren't obvious. I just wish it didn't feel so damn difficult lately.

Maybe that's not much of a conclusion. Maybe it's not the kind of grand statement that ties everything together with a neat little bow. But it's honest. And for this week, I'm going to have to let that be enough.

VOTE

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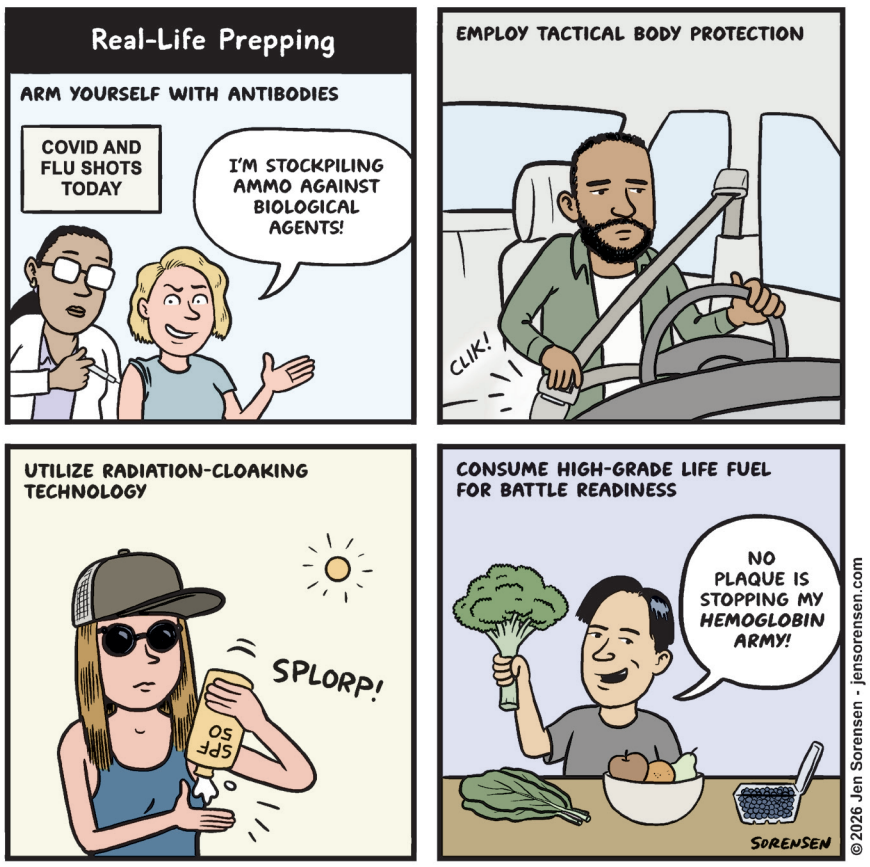
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To find your early voting locations and hours, visit mi.gov/vote and select "Your voter information."

MichiganVoting.org



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PAGE 8

You can play on Spare Time lanes again soon, but not for bowling



PAGE 19

Lansing radio personality Brion O'Brion inducted into hall of fame



PAGE 29

She Ate/He Ate go retro at RJ's Burgers & Ice Cream

Cover illustration by Nevin Speerbrecker

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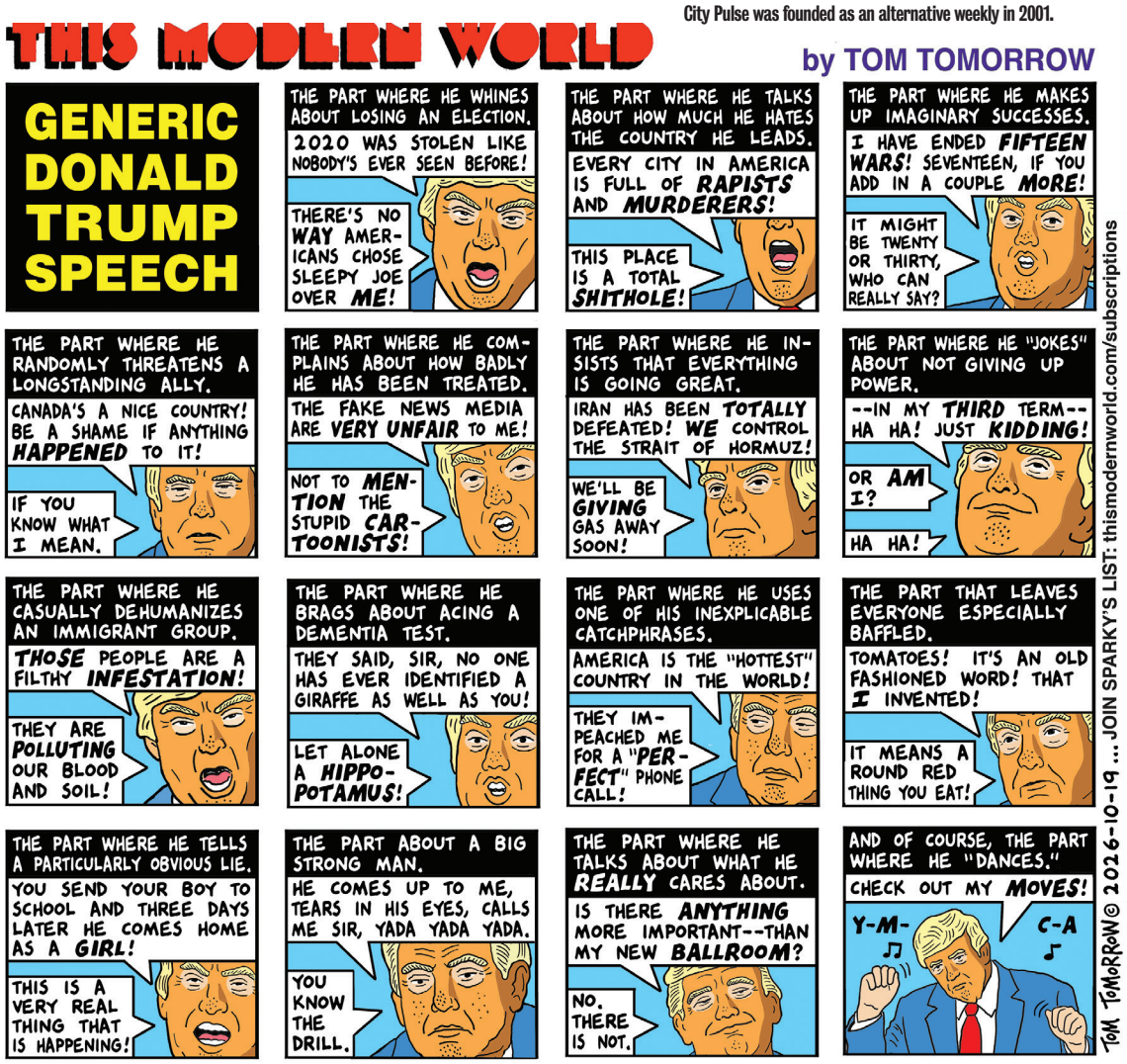


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PULSE NEWS & OPINION

Michigan No Kings rallies blend anti-Trump protests with calls to vote early

By KATHERINE DAILEY, TYLER SCOTT AND EMMA J. NELSON/ Michigan Advance MichiganAdvance.com

Thousands of demonstrators gathered at No Kings rallies across Michigan on Saturday as organizers hoped to turn the movement's opposition to President Donald Trump into increased voter turnout in November's midterm elections.

With early in-person voting set to begin statewide next weekend, rallies in Lansing, Ferndale and Grand Rapids were among dozens across the state that combined criticism of the Trump administration with calls for voters to make a plan to cast their ballots and help protect the election process.

Lansing's No Kings protest on the West Lawn of the Michigan State Capitol was heavily focused on encouraging attendees to vote — especially using early voting methods, including absentee ballots and early in-person voting, the latter of which begins on Oct. 24 in Michigan.

Much like at past No Kings events, many signs in the crowd of a few hundred attendees were critical or mocking of President Donald Trump and his policies, including those around immigration enforcement. Disapproval of the current federal administration was an overarching theme among attendees.

Anne Paquet Howard, 78, a Lansing resident, reminisced on her time campaigning for Robert F. Kennedy as a student at Michigan State University in the 1960s. She said it taught her "the importance of one person, one vote."

"I was a part of the Great Society, and I think that's one of the eras where America was really working more towards a perfect union. And it saddens my heart to see what's developed since then, so I'll be here and thankfully I'm still healthy," she said. "The big message is get out to vote, everyone, please, it still works."

"Make your plans to vote early and be the election protectors we know you can be," Alyson Grigsby, an organizer with Voters Not Politicians, told the crowd.

Throughout the rally, organizers posed hypotheticals about situations that could arise on Election Day, such an ICE presence at a polling location, and discussed how they might respond — alerting relevant local leaders, including the precinct captains and local clerks, and reporting incidents to election protection organizations.

Speakers heavily encouraged anyone with concerns on or leading up to Election Day to make use of a nonpartisan voter hotline, but also encouraged voters to verify information that they may see on social media about elections with trusted sources like the ACLU or election officers.

"It's important to leave today not only knowing you have a plan to vote early, but also have a plan to keep our elections and our communities safe, on Election Day and the days afterwards," Grigsby said.

The focus on early voting was clear from organizers ahead of Saturday's event, and the rally itself included opportunities for attendees to sign up to be poll watchers or poll challengers on Election Day.

Also present at Lansing's rally were booths for various political organizations, including the Ingham County Democratic Party and those in favor of Michigan's Proposition 2, the Michiganders for Money Out of Politics ballot measure to limit campaign spending by utility companies and government contractors.

In Ferndale, one of southeast Michigan's larger rallies drew several hundred demonstrators to the intersection of 9 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue, with a mix of signs both encouraging voters to cast their ballots and simultaneously excoriating the actions of the Trump administration.

Even though this iteration of No Kings activity was supposed to be about encouraging people to vote, the signs that dozens of demonstrators carried and waved at traffic lambasted the Trump administration, ICE, and the president's stress-testing the limits of executive power.

The pro-voting activism was happening where volunteers with the anti-authoritarian activist network Indivisible and their partners asked those attending the rally about their plans to vote, and whether they felt knowledgeable about the ballot proposals Michiganders statewide will be voting on in November, along with the candidates for elected office.

"For my granddaughters I feel like I need to stand up for their future, all my grandkids' future, and especially our girls,

See Protests, Page 7



The Lansing No Kings event was one of dozens of similar events around Michigan on Saturday, Oct. 17, that focused on election information, early voting and urging every eligible voter to cast their ballot.



Protesters marched from the Michigan Hall of Justice to the west side of the Capitol.



There were many signs and costumes at the rally.



"I thought it was a 'No Stings' rally," said Jess Norling of Mason. "I got here and it's 'No Kings.' Well, I'm for that too! I'm so concerned about our democracy."

Photos by Raymond Holt for City Pulse

Disavowed Libertarian candidate for governor, Anthony Hudson, holds protest against data centers

By LIEZA KLEMM

On the steps of the Capitol building's east side, gubernatorial candidate Anthony Hudson held an event protesting data centers, Flock cameras and "getting money out of politics" on Wednesday, Oct. 14.

Hudson, until weeks ago, was running under the Michigan Libertarian Party banner. The party disavowed him on Sep. 28 with an announcement posted on X, stating that "Public statement and platform positions of Anthony Hudson actively oppose foundational constitutional liberties, including freedom of speech and freedom of religion."

Hudson said he didn't need them. "I don't want a party. I don't want to be tied to a party system."



Anthony Hudson speaks on the Michigan Capitol steps on Wednesday, Oct. 14.



Jennifer Long speaks at the Hudson event.

Photos by Lieza Klemm/ City Pulse

The candidate made it clear that Wednesday's event had nothing to do with his campaign.

"This is a straight-up protest," he told City Pulse.

The protest's marketing included a Facebook event post and drew comments from users suspicious of artificial intelligence use.

"Using AI slop to protest data centers is certainly a choice you can make," one user commented.

Hudson said he views AI as a tool.

"You don't have to pay a publishing company to do it," he said. "You promote it on social media for free, and people engage. It hits the algorithm. It gets a response."

Hudson said there is a difference between using AI to generate a flyer and the hyperscale data centers popping up around the state. "Things like that have nothing to do with just creating a poster," he said. "We've had data centers in Michigan for 30 years for hospitals and agencies ... big hyperscale data centers are more personal to us."

Fact-checking from Bridge Michigan confirms that data centers have been used for decades, but the ones at the center of today's debates are significantly larger than the old ones.

Hudson named the Saline data center as an example. Saline Township officials denied zoning to developers. The developers sued, and the board settled, citing the costly legal fees of fighting the lawsuit.

If elected, Hudson said he would repeal Public Act 233, passed in 2023, which made the Michigan Public Service Commission the siting authority for utility-scale renewable energy facilities.

"Bring back local control," he said.

Under Hudson's plans, lawmakers would write regulations for data centers and fine them a million dollars a day for noncompliance. The money would be funneled back into the communities, so "that they can be paid for the inconvenience of having a treasonous government."

Per the event post on Facebook, the protest started at 1 p.m. while the event's flyer marketed a 2 p.m. start time.

It was just before 3 p.m. when the first speaker approached the podium stationed on the Capitol steps.

Jennifer Long is running to represent Michigan's 77th District in the House as a Libertarian candidate. "It does not matter what political team you are on. These issues are affecting every Michigander," she said.

Long introduced Linda Dumond from Dorr Township.

Dumond is a member of the Dorr Residents Community Action Committee, which aims to fight AI hyperscale data center development in the area.

Back in 2024, Microsoft purchased more than 250 acres of land to build a data center. After significant pushback from residents, the township's board issued a 12-month moratorium on data center development by Microsoft.

According to Dumond, the majority of residents oppose data center development. "I can say easily, over 90% (of residents) are against it," she told City Pulse.

The issue of data centers is so important to Dumond that she considers herself a one-issue voter. "I don't care what party they're affiliated with," she said. "I'll vote for the person against data centers."

She is also worried about the repercussions of AI on the job market. "My husband and I, we're about ready to re-

See Hudson, Page 7





People attended an anti-data center event for former Libertarian Party candidate Anthony Hudson on Wednesday, Oct. 14, at the Michigan Capitol.



Protests

from page 5

their human rights," Julie Bloss of St. Clair Shores said when asked why she was attending the Ferndale gathering.

Stephen Machlay of Detroit was more blunt in his rationale for attending the rally.

"I'm tired of fascism in America. Our economy is in shambles. The tariffs are a disaster. He's making enemies of all our allies and friends with all our enemies," Machlay said, referring to Trump.

Traffic honked, mostly in friendly affirmation of the anti-Trump administration signs. There was one noticeable moment of minor counter-protesting, when a Trump supporter yelled "four more years" and shook his fist at a person in a full-body furry suit who held a sign reading "melt that ICE."



Cheryl VanDeKerkhove, local No Kings rally organizer and activist, spoke to hundreds of attendees at the start of the event.



Lansing-based Analog Resistance made typewriters available so No Kings rally participants could write letters to their lawmakers old-school style.

Meanwhile, in West Michigan, No Kings drew people to Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Grand Rapids, which was filled with hundreds of demonstrators Saturday morning as part of the nationwide day of action, officially dubbed "No Kings: Vote Early."

The demonstration — which focused on impacting polls on a local scale — featured speakers from Indivisible Kent County, Unite and Resist Grand Rapids and UCC Power Fund, as well as a live performance by Asamu Johnson and the Associates of the Blues.

Jim Hollebeek, who attended Saturday's demonstration, used to teach American history. He said he's disappointed by the direction the nation is going.

"This is not the country that I taught about, and that saddens me a lot," he said. "I think it's time people got together and took that country back to where it was and where it ought to be."

Hollebeek and his daughter Kim Dewey live in Grand Rapids, and they've attended all four downtown No Kings demonstrations together.

The two said Saturday's event wasn't as well-advertised as previous protests, but they hope it will still impact the midterm elections.

"That'd be awesome if everyone would get out and make their voices heard, because that's their right," Dewey said. "I'm hopeful that we take over both the House and the Senate."

Hudson

from page 6

tire," she said. But for her grandkids, the future is murky.

During her speech, Dumond tied the influence of outside group campaign spending with data center development. "We need to start listening to what the people want, not what these big corporations want," she said. "And that again is why we need to get the money out of politics, and that's why we need people representing us at our state and federal levels that are going to be there for the people, not the corporations."

Dumond was one of seven speakers at the protest. The crowd was a handful of people; most were slated to speak.

Eddie Kabacinski, a former Warren City Councilmember, is helping Hudson on the campaign trail

Kabacinski has hope that the independent party candidate has a shot at winning. "(Hudson) has followed all of the rules," he said, "and he's been in this campaign the longest."

According to reporting from CBS News, Jocelyn Benson, the Democratic gubernatorial candidate, was the first out of the current three candidates to announce her bid back in January 2025.

Hudson followed with an announcement in March 2025. John James, the Republican candidate for Michigan's governor position, announced his bid in April 2025.

Regardless of being disavowed by his former party or his position as a third-party candidate, Hudson continues to campaign. Even the potential of losing the election won't deter him. "I'll be back in four years."



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Spare Time lanes to be reused, but not as a bowling alley

By MIKE ELLIS

Spare Time won't reopen as a bowling alley, but you can play on the lanes again in about a month.

The lanes at the former Spare Time Entertainment Center bowling alley, near Frandor, are being taken out and will be used as a skating rink a few miles away, at the High Caliber Karting & Entertainment complex inside the Meridian Mall. The new skating rink will take up the space formerly used by throw bowling and across from the axe throwing.

The rink will be built from the old bowling alley floor.

"It's a pretty special way to preserve a small piece of local history while creating a completely new experience for the next generation," said Cheyenne Townsley, marketing events manager for High Caliber.

There's a lot of excitement about the skating rink, she said.

The rink is expected to open in November.

The bowling alley building closed in April 2025 after a fire that spread from a storage trailer and the business, which included escape rooms and a mini-golf course, has been closed since.

Townsley said she does not know what will happen with the building. Her company is bringing the wood lanes and some of the lighting from Spare Time for their new skating rink.

The former bowling alley recently changed its outside disclaimer from 'temporarily closed' to 'permanently closed' and the website now thanks customers for more than six decades as a beloved gathering place" both as Holiday Lanes and Spare Time.



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

Spare Time Entertainment Center in Lansing is throwing in the bowling towel. The wood lanes will be repurposed as a roller skating rink for High Caliber Karting & Entertainment at the Meridian Mall.

High Caliber officials announced Monday their plans for the new skating rink.

High Caliber President Julissa Munsters, who grew up skating at Skateland, said in a statement that the company is excited to bring the nostalgia of roller skating to High Caliber's current offerings.

"Wood that once carried bowling balls ... will now carry skaters into a new chapter, giving a place that held years of community memories a second life."

Roller skating will be added to the High Caliber lineup, which includes go-kart racing, drift karting, arcade games, axe throwing, pocket soccer, battlefield activities and rage rooms, alongside food, drinks and large group event experiences.

The new skating rink is expected to open before the holiday season to catch family outings, birthday parties, reunions with friends or company celebrations.

The rink is scheduled to open in November 2026 at High Caliber Karting & Entertainment, 1982 W. Grand River Ave. in Okemos.

The official opening date, skating hours and pricing will be announced as the launch approaches.

CITY OF LANSING
SUMMARY OF
ADOPTED ORDINANCE # 1364

Lansing City Council adopted an Ordinance of the City of Lansing, Michigan, to to conform the Lansing Codified Ordinances to the 2026 revised Lansing City Charter to add new Chapter 245, Sections 245.01, 245.02, 245.03, 245.04 and 245.05 to provide powers and duties of the Office of the Independent Internal Auditor, including the appointment, suspension, and removal of the Internal Auditor, and to provide for the office function.

Effective date: October 27, 2026

Notice: The full text of this Ordinance is available for review at the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan. A copy of the full text of this Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office, 9th Floor, City Hall, Lansing, Michigan at a fee determined by City Council.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC
www.lansingmi.gov/Clerk
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#26-393

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held on Monday, October 26, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tony Benavides Lansing City Council Chambers, 10th Floor Lansing City Hall, 124 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI for the purpose of considering:

An Ordinance to amend Chapter 654 of the Lansing Codified Ordinances Sections 654.02, 654.03, 654.05, 654.07, 654.08, 654.13, and 654.14 to establish that the City of Lansing's regulations regarding noise applies to all properties within the City, with limited exceptions, and to amend how such noise in the City is evaluated, by removing references to decibel levels and instead adopting a plainly audible standard at various distances depending on the time of day.

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in these meetings should contact the City Council Office at 517-483-4177 (TDD (517) 483-4479) 24 hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation requests.

For more information, please call 517-483-4177. If you are interested in this matter, please attend the public hearing or send a representative. Written comments will be accepted between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on City business days if received before 5 p.m., on the day of the Public Hearing at the City Clerk's Office, Ninth Floor, City Hall, 124 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48933 or email city.clerk@lansingmi.gov.

Chris Swope, Lansing City Clerk, MMC/MiPMC
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CP#26-394

HUMAN RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES [HRCS]
For Funding Period: July 1, 2027-June 30, 2028 (FY27-28)

SAVE THE DATE

Community Empowerment and Human Services

GRANT APPLICATION TRAINING

Thursday, October 29, 2026
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
via Zoom

Attendance is strongly recommended for new and returning Agencies planning to apply for City of Lansing [HRCS] Grant Funding for FY27-28.

City of Lansing
Human Relations and Community Services
Delvata Moses, Interim Director

LANSING MICHIGAN
Andy Schor, Mayor

Registration is requested by October 23, 2026
Registration Link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/_wEbX8_0SEqjnQ17h265-w

Michigan advocates work to ease election security anxieties as Nov. 3 approaches

By KATHERINE DAILEY/ Michigan Advance MichiganAdvance.com

With just over two weeks until the Nov. 3 general election, anxieties over federal interference on Election Day, as well as fears about the security of casting a ballot in the first place, are ever-present in conversations about election integrity in Michigan.

Advocates and nonprofits are working to assuage those concerns — as Wayne State University election law professor Michael Brady said in a call with Keep Our Republic on Wednesday, "This election is business as usual."

Andrew Walchuk, the policy director and counsel for Common Cause, attributed fear this year to what he described as President Donald Trump's villainization of election officials and even individual voters and communities who he dislikes.

"He has created this environment of people who are engaged in a way that they've never been engaged before," Walchuk said. "We have seen outreach across the country and so many of our states, from partner organizations that never have been involved in elections, just small community groups that are wondering what can we do, and for me that really says that people care about our democratic system, people care about their right to vote, and they're not going to take kindly to someone who is trying to tear it all down."

Different groups are taking different approaches to convincing Michigan's voters that the ballots they cast on or leading up to Nov. 3 will be counted securely and fairly.

Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope said, in an Oct. 13 news conference, that the "sheer number of different municipalities" involved in Michigan's largely decentralized election system are an important check for election security.

"The county clerk, the city and township clerks work together. The county programs the election, and then the clerks execute it. There's a separation of duties that provides additional security," he said. "Not only do we have over 1,600 clerks in Michigan, but we have thousands upon thousands of election workers that are your neighbors working in the polling places on Election Day, and those are identified by party. And there are certain duties that have to be done by a Democrat and a Republican."

Walchuk's organization, Common Cause, is also part of a broader Election Protection Coalition that maintains a voter hotline on Election Day.

"What we want to ensure, and what we believe will happen because of efforts like our organizations and so many allies in this space, we want to make sure that voters feel safe and secure, exercising their right to vote," he said.



Mike Ellis/City Pulse

Lansing City Clerk Chris Swope in September as his staff worked to get absentee and other ballots prepared for the election.

Two potential threats from the federal government are also front of mind for many voters experiencing election anxieties — the presence of federal agents, especially armed ones, at polling places, and the weaponization of the U.S. Postal Service by the Trump administration to limit the power of mail-in voting.

Walchuk distinguished between armed federal agents from agencies like ICE or the Department of Homeland Security, who are not allowed to be present at polling places, and standard election monitors, generally from the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division, which has existed since 1957.

"What really worries me is the fact that the Civil Rights Division has been decimated by this administration, and so what we are seeing is a massive number of folks who just do not have the experience and training," Walchuk added. "The idea that some of these monitors, whether intentionally or unintentionally, will disregard the rules governing third-party observers in the state where they are, and will try to assert some level of authority that they do not legally have, that piece does worry me."

Clinton Township Clerk Kim Meltzer and Kent County Clerk Lisa Lyons said in the press conference hosted by Keep Our Republic that they intend to rely on local law enforcement in the case of federal agents on the ground on Election Day, though Meltzer emphasized, "It's not likely to happen."

"I am not law enforcement. It's not my background. So I'm grateful that we do have a police department in some contract with the local, or the county sheriff. Clerks can rely upon local law enforcement in that capacity," Meltzer said.

Walchuk also said that when talking to voters, he makes sure to highlight the court victories that have blocked Trump administration policies that would make mail-in voting harder.

"The U.S. Postal Service has been handling mail voting for decades, and this is a process that they know how to do, and they have already stated that they will once again, as they have in past years, take extraordinary measures to ensure that ballot mail is delivered on time," he said. "What I really blame is the Trump administration for introducing all of this confusion about mail voting and for creating a distraction as it tried to add a new duty on top of all of the other duties that the USPS has of delivering election mail, of deciding whose mail actually gets delivered, but that was blocked."

Swope said that he too had been concerned about changing the role of the postal service to serve as the "gatekeeper of ballots," but those policies were not enacted.

"I always say the United States postal system is a great institution, but they are not infallible. So we have occasional reports of ballots just not making it to the voter. What I try to do is keep in communication with the voter," he said. "That communication is key as we get close to an election. I email folks a reminder just so that if they mailed it and they thought it came and it didn't, that's their flag."

Kaitlyn Wilkins, the founder of the Screaming Eagle Creative Collective nonprofit running the In Michigan We Trust campaign, said absentee voting is enshrined in the Michigan Constitution, with safeguards in place.

"Your signature gets verified two times: once on your application, once from your return envelope against the vote your signature on file," she said, echoing Swope. "There are video-monitored drop boxes, and you can track your ballot like a package and sign up for email alerts from the time you mail it to the time it gets counted."

Other advocacy organizations are focused on specific portions of the elections process.

One such group is the Michigan Election Observation Project, which launched an advisory board and began an effort to recruit hundreds of Michiganders to serve as election observers in 15 counties — Genesee, Macomb, Oakland, St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Berrien, Ottawa, Kent, Washtenaw, Leelanau, Antrim, Marquette, Ingham, Wayne and Muskegon.

"At a time when we have hotly contested elections days away, we're pleased to have MEOP in our state to help provide even greater transparency and trust in our elections. The public benefits when credible, fact-based information is readily available," said former Gov. John Engler in a press release announcing the election observation effort.

Looking past Election Day, the Election Truth Alliance is helping voters understand state laws around recounts and audits and providing information to candidates and voters about what can justify a recount request.

CITY OF LANSING
NOTICE OF ELECTION
FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

To the qualified electors of the City of Lansing:

Please take notice that the City of Lansing will hold the State General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For the purpose of electing candidates for the following offices:

Partisan Section

State: Governor and Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General; **Congressional**: United States Senator, Representative in Congress; **Legislative**: State Senator, Representative in State Legislature; **State Boards**: Member of State Board of Education, Regent of University of Michigan, Trustee of Michigan State University, Governor of Wayne State University. (NOTE: Straight Party Ticket will be a voting option for this election)

Nonpartisan Section

Judicial: Justice of Supreme Court, Judge of Court of Appeals, Judge of Circuit Court, Judge of Probate Court (Ingham only), Judge of District Court; **Lansing Community College:** Board of Trustees Member; **Local School District:** Board Member

For the purpose of voting on the following proposals:

State: A Proposal to Convene a Constitutional Convention for the Purpose of Drafting a General Revision of the State Constitution, A Proposal to Prohibit Campaign Contributions from Certain Regulated Utilities and Government Contractors and Apply Campaign Finance Laws and Regulation to Additional Types of Political Communications; **County:** Eaton County Transportation Authority (EATRAN) Millage Renewal Authorization Question, Eaton County Local Roads and Streets Preservation and Improvement Millage Proposal; **City of Lansing:** Essential Services Millage Restoration Proposal, Citizens' Advisory Healthcare Action Board Charter Amendment; **Local School District:** Holt Public Schools Operating Millage Renewal Proposal

Full text of the ballot proposals may be obtained at the Lansing Elections Office, 701 W. Jolly Rd., Lansing, Michigan 48910, telephone: (517) 483-4131.

Voting Precincts and Polling Places are:

City of Lansing Ward 1
Pct. 1 – Gier Park Community Center
Pct. 2 – Johnson Fieldhouse
Pct. 3 – Post Oak School
Pct. 5 – Foster Community Center
Pct. 8 – Johnson Fieldhouse
Pct. 9 – Potter Park Zoo
Pct. 10 – Potter Park Zoo

City of Lansing Ward 2
Pct. 12 – Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pct. 13 – Cavanaugh School
Pct. 14 – Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pct. 15 – Parker Memorial Baptist Church
Pct. 17 – Parker Memorial Baptist Church
Pct. 18 – Epicenter of Worship Church
Pct. 20 – Epicenter of Worship Church

City of Lansing Ward 3
Pct. 22 – Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center
Pct. 23 – Dwight Rich School
Pct. 25 – Tabernacle of David Church
Pct. 27 – Dr. Halik Professional Development Center
Pct. 28 – Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center
Pct. 30 – Alfreda Schmidt Southside Community Center

City of Lansing Ward 4
Pct. 32 – Dr. Evans Welcome Center
Pct. 34 – Bread House Church
Pct. 35 – Letts Community Center
Pct. 36 – First Presbyterian Church
Pct. 37 – Neighborhood Empowerment Center
Pct. 38 – Letts Community Center
Pct. 39 – Hope Christian Ministries International Church

Sample ballots can be found at **www.Michigan.gov/vote**. To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the City Clerk's Office in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

To see if you are registered or to find your polling location, please visit www.Michigan.gov/vote.

Photo Identification OR Affidavit Required to Vote:
Under a Michigan law upheld by the Michigan Supreme Court, ALL voters will be asked to show photo identification to vote at the polls. Voters without identification will be required to fill out and sign an affidavit to receive a ballot.

Anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

Location	Address	Regular Business Hours September 24 – October 30
Lansing City Hall	124 W. Michigan Ave 9th Floor Lansing, MI 48933	Monday – Friday 8am – 5pm
Lansing Elections Office	701 W. Jolly Rd Lansing, MI 48910	Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm Wednesdays 9am – 7pm

Additional times outside of the above listed regular business hours are as follows:

Location	Address	Additional Hours
Lansing City Hall	124 W. Michigan Ave 9th Floor Lansing, MI 48933	Monday, November 2 8am – 4pm Election Day, November 3 8am – 5pm
Lansing Elections Office	701 W. Jolly Rd Lansing, MI 48910	Saturday, October 31 9am – 5pm Sunday, November 1 9am – 5pm Monday, November 2 9am – 4pm Election Day, November 3 7am – 8pm
Foster Community Center	200 N. Foster Ave Lansing, MI 48912	Saturday, October 24 – Sunday, November 1 10am – 6pm Monday, November 2 10am – 4pm Election Day, November 3 7am – 8pm

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS
Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. No reason required.

The Lansing City Clerk's Office must have a signed application from the voter to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. Applications are available at the locations referenced in the above tables or by visiting our website at LansingVotes.gov.

Friday, October 30, 2026, at 5:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot be mailed to you.

Monday, November 2, 2026, at 4:00 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot in person, except for those who register to vote on Election Day.

Those registering to vote on Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2026, are eligible to receive an absent voter ballot at the Lansing City Clerk's Office, locations referenced in the above table.

Chris Swope, MMC/MiPMC
Lansing City Clerk
Phone: 517-483-4131
Email: city.clerk@lansingmi.gov
Website: www.LansingVotes.gov
www.facebook.com/LansingClerkSwope

CP#26-397

REWIND

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST 7 DAYS

COMPILED BY STEVE UNDERWOOD FROM LOCAL NEWS SOURCES



A cow escaped or fell out of a trailer on US 127 near Lake Lansing Road and was euthanized after six hours of attempts by police and others to corral it. The cow initially had minor road rash and bumps and appeared to be otherwise fine, according to an East Lansing Police Department statement, which acknowledged that a loose cow was a "new one" for them. The initially jovial attitude turned more serious after several hours, including delaying the release of a nearby elementary school. Professionals including veterinarians, MSU Police and Public Safety, Ingham County Animal Control, Potter Park Zoo and more were involved in person or consulted. Officials used nine tranquilizer darts, attempted to herd it, brought a veterinarian out and spoke to the transporter prior to making the final decision. The cow was returned to the owner after being killed.



Moores Park Pool in Lansing is full and while it's a bit chilly for a test dip, the weather is fine for a test run of the pool's waterproofing. The century-old oblong pool, a template for the many community pools that exploded around the nation around that time, is one of the few surviving examples of a Wesley Bintz pool, built by the one-time Lansing city engineer. The attraction has been closed since 2019 and was expected to open this year. But construction complications pushed back the timetable, Lansing Parks & Recreation Director Brett Kaschinske said earlier this year. It should be open for swimming, however, in summer of 2027. The renovations are being funded by a $6 million state grant given in 2024.



Lansing plans to take the owners of one of the city's largest apartment complexes back to court to ask for a receiver to be returned after the property owners allegedly missed deadlines to fix up more than 100 apartments. The Sycamore Townhomes property in southwest Lansing – with 339 apartments – was under a court-appointed receiver after legal action from the city in 2024. The receivership ended in March 2026 with an agreement from owners to invest more than $16 million into the property to bring units up to code under a timeline. The renovation was expected to lead to 120 units opening in September, part of a phased-in process for the whole complex. The city alleges that work has stopped and the units have not been fixed by the mortgage company that was included in the legal actions, Arbor Mortgage. "Since Arbor took over from the receiver, the required renovations have stalled and Arbor has failed to deliver any units," the city said in a statement Friday. "No meaningful progress has been made on the required refurbishment. This large housing complex continues to sit vacant, making further court action and a request for a new receiver necessary."



The East Lansing City Attorney's Office said in a statement Friday that it will not be pursuing charges against a 20-year-old woman who was arrested in August. The body camera footage from the four officers who arrested her will be released as part of the end of the case against the woman, according to a statement from the city. The Ingham County Prosecutor's Office previously declined to press charges a month ago, allowing the city to consider lesser or different charges. She was arrested outside Harper's Restaurant and Brewpub and video of her arrest, which appears to show an officer striking a person on the ground, has been added to the public critiques of the police department in the past year. Friday's announcement resolves the cases against the woman, according to police.

...

"(T)his decision does not call into question the propriety of the officers' decisions on the night of (her) arrest," said East Lansing City Attorney Carlito Young, in a statement. "They responded to a difficult and rapidly evolving situation, cooperated fully with all subsequent reviews and have maintained professionalism throughout more than two months of public scrutiny." The city plans to release redacted versions of the body camera footage from four officers involved in her arrest. "Redactions have been made to protect (her) privacy, bystanders' privacy and personal information as required by law. The City attempted to contact (the woman) to discuss the release of the video, but she could not be reached," the city said in a statement. "(The woman) and her family, as well as the involved officers, have faced a difficult two months. However, closing the matter will not stop the ELPD's continued commitment to enforcing the law while at the same time ensuring equal treatment of everyone who lives in, works in or visits East Lansing."



Lansing Police said last week that medical examiners have determined that the manner of death in two of the Lansing River Trail deaths are "indeterminate," that one is a homicide and a fourth is pending. Manner of death is one of several classifications on a death certificate, including cause and mechanism. Manner is typically one of only six options: Natural, accidental, homicide, suicide, undetermined or under investigation. Lansing Police Chief Rob Backus has acknowledged public concern about a "serial killer" in the community. The chief has said similarities between at least four of the five known deaths mean that police are seriously considering links between the deaths. "For example, we believe that all of our victims are members of our unhoused community," he said in an Oct. 2 news conference. "We suspect that in these instances, the injuries occur overnight, in the early morning hours. We believe that our victims in this case were lying down, potentially even sleeping."

...

Gino Chouinard, 54, died on Oct. 27, about two weeks after he was injured. His death is considered indeterminate, according to a statement from UM Health-Sparrow, which handles medical examinations in Ingham County. Dunnebacke's manner of death was pending earlier this month and has been moved to indeterminate, according to a LPD statement on Wednesday afternoon. Denis Dunnebacke was found with serious injuries on July 9 and he died a week later. Backus said medical officials initially described it as a medical cause rather than criminal, but the chief said police treated it as a suspicious case from the onset. Robert Smith, 57, was found on July 13 and was pronounced dead on July 17. His manner of death is classified as a homicide, according to the Medical Examiner's Office. The outlier is the stabbing death of 22-year-old Daniel Lusk, which happened on Aug. 20; a man has been charged with open murder in that incident. His manner of death was a homicide, according to the examiners. The most recent case was over a month ago, when Louis Woodruff, 57, was found with severe facial injuries. Woodruff's manner of death remains pending, according to the examiners.



No grassroots, no money, no momentum as James is spinning his tires

By KYLE MELINN

It's less than two weeks before Election Day, but it's increasingly clear John James will not be Michigan's next governor.



POLITICS

The national money dried up a couple weeks ago. The DeVos-fueled political action committee isn't making up the difference. The Michigan Republican Party, still trying to find its feet after the Kristina Karamo implosion, can't make up the difference. Trump isn't helping. James is left spinning his tires.

The MIGOP pledged $1 million in TV and streaming ads in the next few days, but with Democrat Jocelyn Benson and her friends having reserved $5.28 million for the last week of the campaign, that's not making a difference.

The RealClearPolitics polling average has James down 7 percentage points as of Oct. 20. Once Benson's final ad blitz hits, the gap may very well hit double digits.

James is presenting a stiff upper lip. He talked about running a "grassroots campaign" at a recent stop. That could have rolled into a big snowball, I suppose ... had it started 12 months ago.

But it didn't. Twelve months ago, the Republicans' gubernatorial field featured seven announced candidates, six of whom were giving the grassroots thing the ol' college try.

James? He was nowhere to be found on the campaign trail. He and his folks figured he didn't need to make the Lincoln Day dinner stops. The three primary debates the MIGOP held as fundraisers?

There was no John James in attendance. Why open himself up to the risk? That was the theory anyway.

As it turned out, the approach worked in the primary. James kept his head low. He watched the other candidates burn out or fade away due to the lack of money or resources.

They figured that if James got the President Donald Trump endorsement (which he did), what's the point in putting a hundred thousand miles on a vehicle?

After all, there would be time for that, right? James wrote in his April 7, 2025, announcement tweet, "We'll have the rallies and the balloons soon – but first, I want to share exactly why I'm doing this."

The rallies didn't come soon. In fact, it wasn't until after billionaire Perry Johnson announced in January 2026 that James was seen on the campaign trail at all.

By then, a jaded grassroots community had jumped among seven conservative candidates before landing on Johnson, the only non-James candidate with an active campaign as of the Aug. 4 primary election.

Bothered that James arrogantly couldn't make the time for them – just assumed the support from passive Republican voters – many in the grassroots went to Johnson, the billionaire.

Once James was the only option, there's no evidence the grassroots enthusiastically got behind him. The "rallies and balloons" he promised in April have been underwhelming.

Limited media presence. No clear vision. No experience with state government to speak about. Outside of a smiling face from eight years ago, James didn't present anything interesting for voters to connect with.

That shouldn't have mattered.

With Trump and the DeVos family on his side, James theoretically had the support he needed to pull this off.

Except ... Trump doesn't routinely give to statewide candidates he endorses. The President raises a lot of money from individuals. To get a sense of the volume of fundraising emails he sends out, I put myself on his lists long ago.

Since James announced his candidacy April 7, 2025, Trump's fundraising shop has sent me 3,417 emails asking for money. That's roughly six per day.

The amount of TV and streaming money a Trump entity has kicked in to help James become governor since the primary: Zero.

Trump has given to assist select Senate and House candidates. Mike Rogers' effort in the U.S. Senate has gotten $25 million from Trump's No Going Back PAC, according to tracking from AdImpact.

James never matched Benson's national fundraising success. He emerged from the primary with $1.449 million in the bank; Benson had close to $6 million.

Benson's campaign has averaged $1 million a week on TV since August. James has spent $2 million total. That money is not going far.

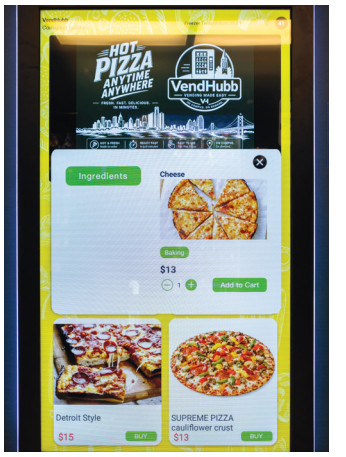
As it turns out, neither is John James for governor.

(Kyle Melinn is the editor of the Capitol news service MIRS. You can email him at melinnky@gmail.com.)











VendHubb in East Lansing is like a convenience store but with vending machines, including ones that serve hot pizza and potstickers.

More than bagged snacks:
Greater Lansing's quirkiest kiosks

By LIEZA KLEMM

Built for convenience and a single serving, vending machines have a distinct place in daily life.

They dispense a single item, usually a snack or beverage, for convenience. The Greater Lansing area has plenty of average vending machines in schools, community centers and malls. City Pulse invites readers to explore a few unique ones, whether they resolve inconveniences or create them.

VendHubb

Picture this: a college student leaving The Riv on M.A.C. Avenue in East Lansing after the last call. Tipsy, maybe stumbling, looking for sustenance that has zero alcohol by volume.

All the typical late-night stops - Raising Cane's, Dave's Hot Chicken, El Azteco - are either closed, busy or simply too much of a hassle.

There's a warm green glow, nestled between Campbell's Smoke Shop and Potbelly, that offers a haven, serving warm, satiating food in under 10 minutes.

VendHubb.

The store, located at 205 M.A.C. Ave., is relatively new - it opened in early September.

It features 10 vending machines. One offers pizza, one sells hot food items and another offers convenience items. There are also four cold beverage machines and three snack machines.

Photos by Raymond Holt for City Pulse

"It's so funny because so many of the students are coming here, and they'll just check everything out," co-owner Robert Slocum said. "They come back and buy something, but they never buy the first time around."

Robert runs VendHubb with his wife Jennifer. They had the idea to open the store after seeing a pizza vending machine on a trip.

"We were like, 'Gosh, we need one of those in East Lansing," Jennifer Slocum said. "We need one of those for the students."

The pizza machine offers hot, 12-inch pizzas that can be ready in under five minutes. It holds 69 pizzas and cooks them using a combination of a convection oven, microwave and UV rays. The pizzas are not precut, so the box includes a small serrated knife.

The menu includes a pepperoni pizza for $14; cheese and supreme pizzas go for $13. The Detroit-style pizza is $15.

In the back of the store, a hot food machine sells even quicker eats, including chocolate chip cookies, potstickers, breakfast sandwiches and soft pretzels,

See Kiosks, Page 14



A Bitcoin kiosk inside a Quality Dairy location in Lansing.

Kiosks

from page 13

all ready in about 90 seconds.

Jennifer Slocum said the potstickers and soft pretzels are by far the most popular.

At the front of the store sits a vending machine that's like a check-out-lane with last-minute grabs like mini shaving kits, condoms, melatonin gummies and travel-sized deodorant. According to Jennifer Slocum, condoms are the best seller. "The CVS across the street isn't open late," she said. "I think too, because maybe they're embarrassed to pay for it."

Customers have recommended different items to include in the non-food machine, like false eyelashes or press-on nails. The couple wants to add free Narcan eventually.

For now, the couple is focused on establishing their presence and name recognition. Business has already picked up with MSU students back in town, and the Slocums expect it to grow. "It's picking up every week," Robert Slocum said.

VendHubb is open seven days a week. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 3 a.m. Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Sunday, and 8 a.m. to midnight Monday and Tuesday.

East Lansing Public Schools book vending machines

In an effort to increase literacy, East Lansing Public Schools introduced book vending machines to its six elementary schools. Kiwanis Club of East Lansing, an organization devoted to improving the community, funded the vending machines as part of its signature project.



A Bitcoin kiosk inside The Fledge, where it is used as a warning tool.



A vending machine with personal supplies at the Michigan State University Union is one of at least three such machines on campus.

Books are free, and students get to look forward to a trip to the vending machine as rewards.

According to the Kiwanis Club of East Lansing website, the vending machines "become hubs of literary exploration, igniting a passion for reading that transcends the classroom."

MSU Narcan and sexual health

Like so many, Arianna Paa knows how quickly experimenting with drugs can go wrong.

A current medical student at Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, Paa lost a childhood friend in her sophomore year of undergrad to an accidental fentanyl overdose.

That experience, combined with the stigma surrounding substance abuse, motivated her to look into accessible harm reduction solutions.

Paa formed a team with other MSU students aimed at increasing access to Narcan as well as sexual health products, like emergency contraceptives, pregnancy tests and condoms.

Paa's original idea was a free Narcan newspaper box, but after brainstorming with the team, it evolved into a vending machine. Vending machines carry more than two products, so adding other sexual health items fit in.

Paa said using a vending machine also protects the student's privacy. "You can't really assume what they're getting with so many products being in there."

A trial machine went up in the MSU Union in 2024. In Jan. 2025, another was added in the Multicultural Center off of North Shaw Lane. Nine months later, a third was placed in Akers Hall on the east side of campus.

Paa said the vending machines have received overwhelmingly positive feedback, and the machine in Akers Hall is used the most. "My hope is that they will expand within the dorms."

Dr. Tim Spedoske, the medical director of University Health and Well-Being at MSU, helped with the project. He said when it comes to harm reduction, informative messaging only goes so far.

"We're able to say, 'hey, be aware of this risk ... here's a way that you can be prepared, and there's free Narcan in three different spots around campus.'"

When students advocate for more access - things like life-saving medication and personal health products - they can fill gaps that medical professionals might overlook, Spedoske said. "Sometimes just the barrier to having these conversations is high.

"We need to listen to the people who are affected by these things."

Narcan is free in the vending machines, and emergency contraceptives are $10, a fraction of the cost in a typical convenience store. MSU also offers free emergency contraceptives at various campus locations.

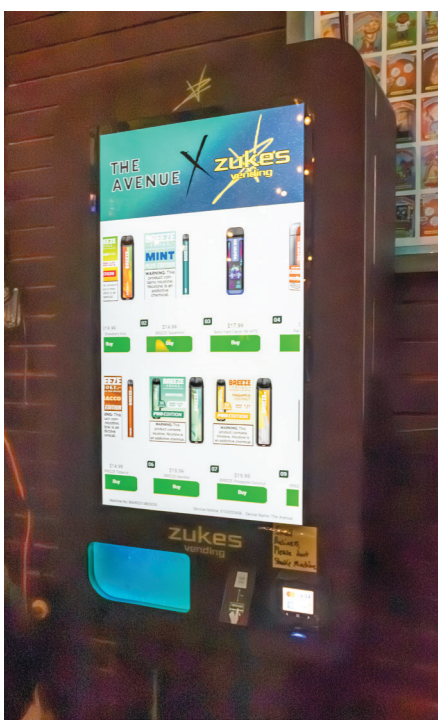
Cryptocurrency kiosks

The world of cryptocurrency is puzzling. What started as a side comment from an uncle during Thanksgiving dinner in 2010 ("Have you heard of Bitcoin?") has ballooned into a multi-trillion-dollar industry.

While it can be used to grow wealth and net worth, it can also be a conduit for scams.

Lansing City Council is seeking to regulate virtual currency kiosks, which can be found in stores like some Quality Dairys.

During an Aug. 18 meeting of the Committee on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), Councilmember Trini Pehlivanoglu said representatives from the local AARP approached city offi-





The Avenue in Lansing has a variety of machines, including a vape kiosk, a change dispenser and video games.

See Kiosks, Page 15



Kiosks

from page 14

cials with concerns about the kiosks.

These kiosks look similar to ATMs, but instead of a standard transaction, users can convert real cash into cryptocurrency, or vice versa. Scammers may pressure victims to use the machines to pay phony bills, purchase gift cards or resolve threats, all without the chance to get their money back.

"It's similar to a lot of other types of scams," Pehlivanglu told City Pulse. "Someone gets a phone call, and they feel an urgency to go and deposit this money."

In a recent Oct. 13 EDI meeting, Ryan Kost, Lansing City Council's first ward representative, said the kiosks could confuse anyone. "I can't always tell the difference between an ATM and a cryptocurrency machine."

The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) reported that cryptocurrency kiosk-related scams resulted in more than $388 million in losses nationwide in 2025, up 58% from 2024. Over three-quarters of those losses came from victims over the age of 50.

The AARP says the number of cryptocurrency scams targeting older Michigan residents is increasing. Residents in Michigan alone lost over $210 million to cryptocurrency kiosks in 2025, according to FBI figures.

The city ordinance proposed by Pehlivanglu requires owners and operators to obtain a machine license. It would mandate that the machine display warnings or disclosures, as well as a customer service number. Violations would be a civil infraction.

The machine's owner would be subject to a background check as part of the licensing process. If they have financial crime on their record, the license would be denied. And licenses would require annual renewal.

The ordinance was up for a public hearing at the Oct. 12 Lansing City Council meeting; residents expressed confusion about why the council could not outright ban cryptocurrency kiosks.

Pehlivanglu said the City Attorney's office is exploring whether that is an option. "At this time, we have a clear path for regulation, and the EDI Committee decided to move forward with that to begin protecting consumers."

The ordinance is up for final passage on Oct. 26. If approved, it would take effect 14 days later.

Jackson City Council banned cryptocurrency kiosks on Sept. 22 through a unanimous vote. The ordinance takes effect on Oct. 22, and any existing machines must be removed within 90 days.

At the state level, two bills to regulate cryptocurrency kiosks and strengthen consumer protection are moving through the House.





A converted cigarette vending machine at Whole Foods in East Lansing now dispenses art for a few bucks, including acrylic paintings, fused glass hearts, puzzle pieces, poetry and rhinestone dot stickers.

Honorable mentions: The Avenue Cafe vape vending machine and Whole Foods Market Art-o-Mat

The Avenue Cafe at 2021 E. Michigan Ave. offers a nicotine fix for its customers with two vending machines stocked with disposable vapes, or e-cigarettes. Each vending machine has over a dozen different options, ranging from $15 to $20 per item.

Whole Foods Market in East Lansing still has its Art-o-Mat, which is a retired cigarette machine converted to dispense art. It was located in the store's Green State Bar and Grill before it closed. The machine vends original mini pieces of art for $5.



A vending machine at the Ingham County Health Department in Lansing has a variety of personal supplies.



A vending machine with personal supplies at Michigan State University's Akers Hall is one of at least three such machines on campus.

ARTS & CULTURE ART • BOOKS • FILM • MUSIC

‘Mixed in and out blood’

Marc Turcotte’s rough ride from Potterville to Illinois poet laureate

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Who are poets writing for? Illinois Poet Laureate Marc Turcotte likes the question, but he doesn’t have a pat answer.

“I’m not sure. It varies from poem to poem, from moment to moment in my life,” he said. “It seems kind of silly if we’re all writing poems and just reading them to our goldfish.”

Turcotte, a member of the Anishinaabe-Turtle Mountain Band, was raised on North Dakota’s Turtle Mountain Reservation but spent much of his youth in the Lansing area and took part in the early phases of Lansing’s spoken word scene.

He is no ivory tower poet. Years of bruising life experience — on and off the reservation, in and out of migrant camps, composing poetry in his head while hauling lumber and hanging sheetrock — give his verses tough sinews and a furnace in the belly.

“When I was a kid, I vividly remember dancing to drum music,” he said. “People were constantly playing fiddles and guitars. From the beginning, poetry was sung to me more than spoken. That led to storytellers. Even if it was just a bunch of slightly drunk aunties and uncles sitting around a table trading stories and barbs, there was a rhythm to it.”

Now based in Chicago, Turcotte will breathe in some old memories, some good and some not, as he returns to the Lansing area to help kick off this weekend’s Poets Roundtable at Michigan State University’s Kellogg Center. Friday’s other featured reader is Gordon Henry Jr., MSU professor emeritus of literature and Native American studies. The Friday reading is open to the public, but registration is required for Saturday’s workshops.

There isn’t much doubt about the audience Turcotte had in mind when he wrote “Dear New Blood,” a powerful 2020 poem published by the Academy of American Poets as part of its Poem-a-Day series.

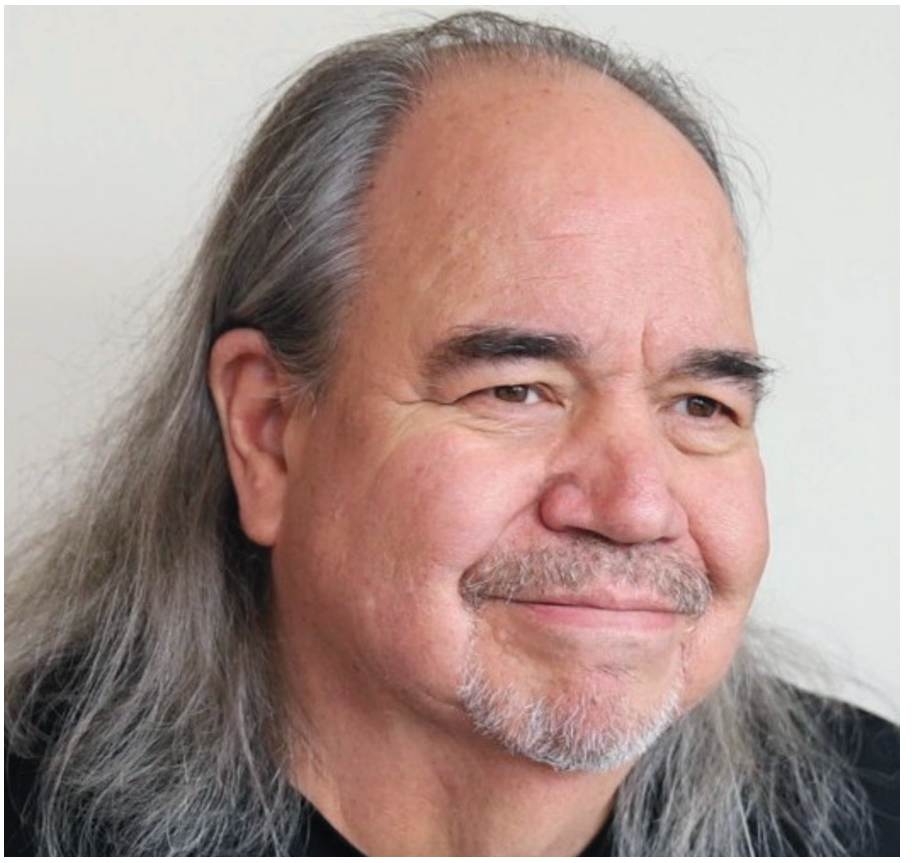
The poem explicitly calls out to the bored, alienated, young Native American writing student, “hunched in the back of the room, tilted in your hard-earned reservation lean” with a “ho-hum gaze out the window toward some other sky.”

“Dear fully mixed up mixed down mixed in and out blood,” he pleads. “Go ahead and kick the shit, kiss the shit from my ears. I swear I swear I’ll listen.”

Turcotte closes the poem by saying, “You don’t need me, but I need you.”

“I needed to write a poem aimed at those young people, because I was one of them,” he said.

Turcotte’s mother, a member of a dirt-poor Scots-Irish family that immigrated to the Lansing area, met his father in the late 1950s.



Courtesy

Anishinaabe poet Marc Turcotte will help kick off this weekend’s Poets Roundtable at MSU’s Kellogg Center.

“My father was from Turtle Mountain, North Dakota,” Turcotte said. “He wandered into a diner on Saginaw Street, near one of the Olds plants, where my mother was waiting tables. He kind of swept her off her feet, and the next thing you know, there I was.”

His father returned to Turtle Mountain with baby Marc and his mother in tow, but the union between his parents didn’t last long.

“My mother loved living among Native people but didn’t have good luck with men,” Turcotte said. “She picked us up one night, and we caught a train and headed back to Michigan.”

They lived in a trailer park near Old Lansing Road, close to the Secretary of State office where his mother worked.

Turcotte spent his elementary, junior high and high school years in and around Lansing, ending up in high school in Potterville.

They were formative years, but the mold was mostly negative.

Turcotte doesn’t like to dwell on this period, but you can find it in his poems, especially “Meanwhile in America”: “I’m eleven years old, fistfighting my way back and forth to school each day. The freckle-faced kids holler, ‘hey Chinese boy, hey Chinese boy.’”

In the poem, he asks his teacher, “Why did the Europeans take away the Indians’ land, anyway?” Her answer: “Well, they didn’t know how to take care of it now, did they?”

Turcotte’s poem “Away” finds him “listening to the white world” while lying awake in bed: “Across the city the Lansing Drop Forge chomps at the night. Sirens like dying crows.”

Turcotte’s memories intersect with the world of young Malcolm X, another future luminary Lansing didn’t treat kindly. Turcotte recalled asking his mother to invite his Black friend, Willie, to his birthday party.

“His mother called my mother and said, ‘Hi, I’m Willie’s mom. I just wanted you to know we’re a Black family. Willie’s never been invited to any parties.’ My mother said, ‘We know.’” Turcotte’s reward was finding the words “Nigger lover” inscribed on his school desk. A staggeringly bleak stanza from “Meanwhile in America” finds Willie comforting him by saying, “At least you don’t have to be black.”

In a strange twist, Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 4, the day before Turcotte’s birthday, and Willie never came to his party.

“His mother was afraid to put him on the streets. It’s interesting how history has these little ripples,” Turcotte said.

Turcotte’s life took many turns before he settled in, if that’s the right phrase, as a senior lecturer and distinguished writer in residence at DePaul University in Chicago. He spent years doing demanding, physical work in lumberyards, oil fields and construction sites across the West.

“I tell my students, ‘Don’t let life happen to you,’” he said. “When I was 19 or 21, I was choosing to be in love with the person standing in front of me. I took the job that was available. I just wasn’t participating in my own life, and I should have been.”

In winter 1992, he came to Chicago at the invitation of a former Lansing-area teacher who appreciated his poetic gifts. She invited him to remodel her house, with the ulterior motive of slipping him into the city’s burgeoning spoken word scene.

“I reacquainted myself with my original love for writing and poetry,” Turcotte said. “Weirdly, how I read my poems to myself or my friends before I ever got to Chicago fit very well into the slam and performance scene there. The next time I went to Lansing, I was inhabiting this world and started looking for it.”

Soon, poets Ruelaine Stokes and Sam Mills were inviting Turcotte to readings in Old Town, such as Mills’ “Anti-Valentine’s Day” open mics.

“That scene has been good to me,” Turcotte said.

The barriers between the academic poetry world and the spoken word scene, between “page and stage,” have become more fluid since Turcotte broke into the Chicago scene.

“As I began doing readings in the mid-1990s at many universities, I received plenty of openly hostile questions about my so-called credentials,” he said.

But he had the gift of actually having something to write about, a life jaggedly lived. One of his admirers was Michigan literary legend Jim Harrison, who sent him encouraging letters he still treasures. One of them reads, “Don’t forget you’re a working guy. That’s one of the things that’ll keep you from becoming a limp sack of shit, which is what most writers are.”

Harrison happened to call Turcotte one day when he was in the midst of moving.

“He said, ‘You’re probably one of the few poets I know who can move his own furniture,’” Turcotte recalled with a laugh.

In the spirit of breaking down the barriers between page and stage, this weekend’s reading and workshops are hosted by the Lansing Poetry Club, the MSU Native American Institute and the MSU Residential College in the Arts and Humanities’ Center for Poetry.

Friday’s other featured speaker, Gordon Henry, has also spent decades navigating that boundary. Henry is a member of the White Earth Anishinaabe tribe of Minnesota.

“Gordon comes from people who tell stories out loud, so I think that was an easy adjustment for him,” Turcotte said. “He could dwell in the academy but also reach out into the community. I’ve read with him before, and I really appreciate his work.”

Poets Roundtable

Friday, Oct. 23–Saturday, Oct. 24

Keynote reading by Mark Turcotte and Gordon Henry Jr.
7 p.m. Friday

Workshops
10 a.m.–4 p.m. Saturday

Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center
219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing

Register for workshops at poetry.rcah.msu.edu/events/poets-roundtable-2026.html

Starlight Dinner Theatre seeks help amid economic difficulties

By MARY CUSACK

Theater is one of Lansing's strengths when it comes to the arts, and part of that strength comes from the diversity of the theater companies. Each has its own unique identity and mission, and Starlight Dinner Theatre is no different. Unfortunately, that identity has put Starlight in a tenuous economic position, forcing its board to do something that most people hate to do: ask for help.

In a recent letter to its supporters, Starlight's board of directors outlined the financial circumstances jeopardizing the theater's future. It explained that, following the challenges of the COVID pandemic, "years of shifting dates, changing locations, and uncertainty took a heavy toll. We lost audience members during the pandemic, and the lack of a consistent performance venue caused us to fall off the radar for many of our longtime patrons."

"The Butler Did It"
Oct. 24–25 and 30–Nov. 1
7:30 p.m. Friday–Saturday (dinner at 6:30)
2 p.m. Sunday (dessert at 1:30)
Waverly East Intermediate School
3131 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 243-6040
starlightdinnertheatre.com

With the abundance of other theater companies in the area, it would be easy to shrug off Starlight's peril and assume that if it shutters, other theaters will absorb its audiences. This is not likely, because no other company caters dinner or caters specifically to senior citizens, which is what sets Starlight apart.

Founder, President and artistic director Linda Granger has great affection for her audience of predominantly seniors and wants to continue to provide a comfortable and convenient entertainment experience.

"They're not comfortable going to the artsy shows," she said. "They tell me, 'Linda, we've had enough death and sadness in our lives, we don't want to see any more. We just want to come here and laugh and have fun.'"

To that end, Starlight focuses on comedies, musicals and light dramas.

In full transparency, City Pulse theater critics have not always been the kindest when reviewing Starlight shows, myself included, because we measured them against shows with edgier material or higher production values. In retrospect, this was not entirely fair. Starlight has been true to its mission of providing a comprehensive entertainment experience for its target market.

Granger is proud of Starlight's role in the theater community: "We're here to entertain. We're not here to open your mind, because other theaters are doing that."

It's that kind of plain talk and self-awareness that makes a conversation with Granger a treat. She is a bundle of energy, fluttering about from topic to topic yet singularly focused on Starlight's mission and clearly dedicated to its continued success. While her sheer willpower might carry the company through this economic challenge, support from the community would be gratefully accepted.

Starlight has had the perfect home at Waverly East Intermediate School, one of the few spaces in town with a stage and enough floor space to allow patrons to remain in the same seats for dinner and the show. In the past, the company could rehearse in the space for free and paid rent only during tech week and the run of the show, but following renovations at the school, a new rental fee structure was enacted that includes charges for all rehearsal time.

Unable to absorb those additional costs, Granger has been forced to find other spaces for rehearsals, currently Dart Bank in Grand Ledge. While she appreciates that the bank has offered up its basement, it's much more work for the cast and crew to commute out of town.



Courtesy

The cast of Starlight Dinner Theatre's production of "The Butler Did It." From left: Adam Bright, Douglas Hoy, Nicole Buchann, Paul Levandowski, David Brooks, Sandy VanLancker, Molly Woods and Cheryl Sheridan. Seated is Chris Klaver.

When asked what Starlight needs to survive and thrive, Granger identified four key needs: a free and convenient rehearsal space, increased ticket sales, donations and volunteers. Granger has reached out to various nonprofit service groups to try to get assistance with volunteer work such as setup, food service and cleanup, to no avail. She often finds herself bussing tables. While Granger is purpose driven and chock full of energy, Starlight can't be a one-woman show. One benefit of volunteering, she noted, is that volunteers can watch the production for free.

In its 20 years, Starlight has been able to produce as many as five shows in a season, but Granger doesn't see the company hitting that high in the future. She will be satisfied with two solid shows a year. The company will close out 2026 with the comedy "The Butler Did It" and open 2027 with the musical "The Fantasticks."

Starlight's board is committed to its survival. As the board notes in its appeal, "We refuse to give up on Starlight Theatre without a fight. We believe we provide an evening of dinner, theatre and entertainment that cannot be found anywhere else in the area." Perhaps it's time for new audiences to treat themselves to the Starlight experience.

'Come From Away' takes us back to kinder days

By COURTNEY BOWERMAN

When I first saw "Come From Away" at the Wharton Center in 2019, I was already worn out from what I thought was the peak of a divisive era. To me, the show was a breath of fresh air. How wonderful it was to get swept away by the inspirational true story of how the small village of Gander, Newfoundland, took in stranded travelers after the Sept. 11 attacks grounded all air traffic. Sure, supplying people with food, clothes and shelter was stressful. Nevertheless, as overwhelming as it got, none of the Gander folk ever questioned whether it was the right thing to do. Their kindness and conviction felt like something out of a different time.



Review

"Come From Away"
Oct. 22–25
7 p.m. Thursday
8 p.m. Friday–Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Riverwalk Theatre
228 Museum Drive, Lansing
(517) 482-5700
riverwalktheatre.com

I'll admit that I've become even more jaded since then, especially after the pandemic and subsequent events where people's common sense and moral compasses failed abysmally. As I pulled up to Riverwalk Theatre for its production of "Come From Away," I was worried that the musical wouldn't work the same magic on me this time. However, when I entered the lobby and saw the theater worker draw in the audience with the gimmicky tradition of kissing a (fake) fish to become an "official" Newfoundlander, I knew we were in for a good time.

The show's minimalist sets and costumes really allow the actors to shine. It must be a lot of work for the actors to each play multiple characters, and it's admirable how quickly they slip in and out of their folksy Newfoundland accents (which they thoroughly nail, by the way). One of the many standouts is Abigail Grill, who plays both Texas airline pilot Beverley and Gander local Annette. While Annette makes audiences laugh with her thirsty fantasies of firemen and pilots, Beverley brings the house down with one of the show's most powerful numbers, "Me and the Sky."

Even in a time of fear and chaos, the travelers and the locals connect with each other in ways they never expected. Schoolteacher Beulah (Lindsey Parr Hemming) comforts Hannah (Shelia Burks) as she struggles to contact her missing firefighter son. Romance blossoms between Nick (Bill Durr) and Diane (Katrina Alexis). Bob (Sidney D. Sauseda II) can't believe how much more welcoming Gander is than New York. It's only a fleeting moment of unity, and not a perfect one, but it's enough to make a lasting impact on everyone.

I miss the days when people were kind to each other without being performative or self-righteous. By the end of "Come From Away," even jaded cynics like me can only hope that someday we won't need another crisis to bring us all together again.



Photo by Ariniko Artistry

Shelia Burks (left) and Sidney D. Sauseda II in Riverwalk Theatre's production of "Come From Away."



Live & Local

CityPULSE

The Avenue
2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
General Defense Committee benefit + dance party
Fri., Oct. 23, 9 p.m.
Nocturne Halloween party w/ rinbossanova & friends
Sat., Oct. 24, 9 p.m.
The Tryouts, Torobono's Noah Miller
Sun., Oct. 25, 7 p.m.

BrickHaven Brewing Co.
200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge
Sweet C & the Sunset Riders
Fri., Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m.
The Aimcriers
Sat., Oct. 24, 6 p.m.

Charlotte Performing Arts Center
378 State St., Charlotte
Pure AM Gold: Your AM Radio Experience
Sat., Oct. 24, 7 p.m.

Classic Pub & Grill
16219 Old U.S. 27, Lansing
Gimme Five
Fri., Oct. 23, 8 p.m.-midnight
Whiskey Diskey
Sat., Oct. 24, 8 p.m.-midnight

Dublin Square
327 Abbot Road, East Lansing
Garret Bielaniec
Wed., Oct. 21, 9 p.m.-midnight
The Reason You Came
Thurs., Oct. 22, 9 p.m.-midnight
Kenny Flowers
Wed., Oct. 28, 9 p.m.-midnight

EagleMonk Pub and Brewery
4906 W. Mount Hope Hwy., Lansing
Chad and Ed of Flat Water Band
Wed., Oct. 21, 7-9 p.m.
Justin of Red Moon Rounder
Wed., Oct. 28, 7-9 p.m.

Eaton County Fairgrounds
1025 S. Cochran Ave., Charlotte
Until Every Paw Has a Home: A benefit concert for Friends of Eaton County Animals
Sat., Oct. 24, 2-9 p.m.

Eaton Rapids Craft Co.
204 N. Main St., Eaton Rapids
Deacon Earl
Fri., Oct. 23, 6-9 p.m.
Lindsey Taylor
Sat., Oct. 24, 6-9 p.m. (restaurant closed for private event)

First Presbyterian Church
510 W. Ottawa St., Lansing
Lansing Symphony Orchestra Musician Series: Piano Trio
Sun., Oct. 25, 3 p.m.

The Fledge
1300 Eureka St., Lansing
OTT Halloween party, featuring Prince Jefe, Uberpack, Metro 2-3, Foster the Kid, OG Huey + more
Sat., Oct. 24, 7 p.m.
Get Loud, Get Organized Fest, featuring Glen, Tequila Mockingbird, Faceless, Susie, Home Grown Homunculus, New Bark Town, Townscratch FC
Sun., Oct. 25, 5-10 p.m.

Graham Vineyards
8920 W. Britton Road, Laingsburg
Joel Jacobs
Sat., Oct. 24, 6-9 p.m.

Grand Ledge Opera House
121 S. Bridge St., Grand Ledge
Grand Ledge Community Band: "Happy Hauntings"
Wed., Oct. 28, 7 p.m.

The Green Door
2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Wavelength
Wed., Oct. 21, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.
Brother Ali, DJ Abilities
Fri., Oct. 23, doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.
The Capstone Volunteers, Jenn's Apartment, Soccer
Sat., Oct. 24, doors 9 p.m., show 10 p.m.
Wavelength
Wed., Oct. 28, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Grewal Hall
224 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Brooklyn Charmers (Steely Dan tribute)
Sun., Oct. 25, 3 p.m.
In Her Own Words, Every Avenue, Fluorescents, Farewell Come April
Wed., Oct. 28, 6:30 p.m.

Horrocks Farm Market
7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Botanical Underground
Wed., Oct. 21, 6-9 p.m.
Brazilian jazz trio
Thurs., Oct. 22, 5-8 p.m.
DJ Moon Hop
Fri., Oct. 23, 5-8 p.m.
Ritmo
Sat., Oct. 24, 5-8 p.m.
John Beltran
Sun., Oct. 25, 2-7 p.m.

The Irish Pub
1910 W. Saginaw St., Lansing
Open mic night, with Scott Seth
Thurs., Oct. 22, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Ritual Suns
Sat., Oct. 24, 8-11 p.m.

Lansing Brewing Co.
325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Jerry Sprague
Fri., Oct. 23, 5:30 p.m.

Lansing Shuffle
325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing
Aaron Manbeck
Sat., Oct. 24, 4-7 p.m.

Looking Glass Brewing Co.
115 N. Bridge St., DeWitt
Ben Awrey
Fri., Oct. 23, 6-9 p.m.

Mac's Bar
2700 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Alien 666, Goremonger, Maidenless, Blue Waffle Syrup, The Golden Ghouls, Wizard Bane
Fri., Oct. 23, 6 p.m.
Open mic night
Mon., Oct. 26, 6-8 p.m.
Unity — In Music
Thurs., Oct. 22, 9 p.m.-2 a.m.
Tues., Oct. 27, 10 p.m.-2 a.m.

Marketplace on the Green
1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos
BIG L & Code Blu
Wed., Oct. 21, 6:30 p.m.

Mayfair Bar
1589 Lake Lansing Road, Haslett
Billie Gene
Fri., Oct. 23, 7-10 p.m.

Midtown Brewing Co.
402 S. Washington Square, Lansing
Open mic night
Mon., Oct. 26, 6-9 p.m.

Moriarty's Pub
802 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Oct. 21, 8-11 p.m.
Blues jam
Thurs., Oct. 22, 9 p.m.-midnight
Northside Rhythm Kings
Fri., Oct. 23, 8 p.m.-midnight
Dead Honey Collective
Sat., Oct. 24, 8 p.m.-midnight
Jazz Tuesdays
Tues., Oct. 27, 7-10 p.m.
Open mic night, with Jen Sygit
Wed., Oct. 28, 8-11 p.m.

MSU College of Music
Electro-Acoustic: Sonic Geography
Wed., Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Eichler Hall, 333 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Wind Symphony
Thurs., Oct. 22, 7:30 p.m.
Wharton Center, 750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
Symphony Orchestra, "Tales, Dreams, and Catchy Tunes"
Fri., Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m.
Wharton Center
Sounding America
Sat., Oct. 24, 7 p.m.
Broad Art Museum, 547 E. Circle Drive, East Lansing
Trombone Colors
Wed., Oct. 28, 7:30 p.m.
Fairchild Theatre, 542 Auditorium Road, East Lansing

Nico's Pub and Grill
117 S. Bridge St., Dimondale
Mike Arnold
Wed., Oct. 21, 6-8 p.m.
The Lynx
Fri., Oct. 23, 7:30-11:30 p.m.

Nuthouse Sports Grill
420 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Starfarm
Fri., Oct. 23, 8:30 p.m.

One North Lansing
5001 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing
Open mic night, with Kathy Ford
Mon., Oct. 26, 6:30-9 p.m.

The Peanut Barrel
521 E. Grand River Ave., East Lansing
Keelan Starr
Fri., Oct. 23, 8-10 p.m.
Deadly String Band
Tues., Oct. 27, 6-8 p.m.

Red Cedar Spirits
2000 Merritt Road, East Lansing
Live music
Fri., Oct. 23, 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Randy Napoleon Trio
Sun., Oct. 25, 6-9 p.m.

Sholty's Bar
1821 S. Washington Ave., Lansing
Spoonful
Tues., Oct. 27, 6-9 p.m.

Stober's Bar
812 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
Lady Luck
Sun., Oct. 25, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.
Your Dad
Tues., Oct. 27, 10 p.m.-1 a.m.

Summerlands Brewing Co.
1957 Cedar St., Holt
Open mic & karaoke
Thurs., Oct. 22, 7-10 p.m.
Garage Sale Band
Fri., Oct. 23, 7-10 p.m.

Tony M's Restaurant & Banquet Center
3420 S. Creyts Road, Lansing
Live music
Wed., Oct. 21, 6-9 p.m.

Uncle John's Cider Mill
8614 U.S.-127, St. Johns
Emma Kathleen
Thurs., Oct. 22, 4-7 p.m.
DownRiver Dan
Fri., Oct. 23, 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Darin Larner
Sat., Oct. 24, 1-4 p.m.
Mike Arnold
Sat., Oct. 24, 3-6 p.m.
Matthew Shannon
Sun., Oct. 25, Noon-3 p.m.
Katie Thor
Sun., Oct. 25, 3-6 p.m.

Unicorn Bar
327 E César E. Chávez Ave, Lansing
Velocity Shift
Fri., Oct. 23, 7-11 p.m.
Just Magnetic
Sat., Oct. 24, 7-11 p.m.

University Lutheran Church
1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing
Larry & Joe
Fri., Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m.

UrbanBeat
1213 Turner St., Lansing
Midweek Music Lounge
Wed., Oct. 21, 6-9 p.m.
Bahar Ensemble: The Tale of Princess Budour and Prince Al Quamar
Thurs., Oct. 22, 7 p.m.
Oxymorons
Fri., Oct. 23, 6:30 p.m.
Midweek Music Lounge
Wed., Oct. 28, 6-9 p.m.

Williamston Roadhouse
3700 E. Grand River Road, Williamston
Steve Shelhart
Wed., Oct. 21, 7-11 p.m.
Sex with Exes
Sat., Oct. 24, 7-11 p.m.

Evolve Theatrics' 'Annie' is well worth attending

By MARK GMAZEL

Evolve Theatrics has presented plays in one guise or another for 21 years. The company selects family-friendly shows that emphasize fun and familiarity, giving many children, as well as many adults, their first opportunity to be on stage or behind the scenes.

With a long rehearsal calendar, the company arrives ready to perform. Its current take on "Annie" is heartwarming and well executed, featuring a talented theatrical family as well as triumphant returns by some long-absent veterans.

Review

"Annie"
Oct. 23–25
7:30 p.m. Friday–Saturday
2 p.m. Sunday
Delta Presbyterian Church
6100 W. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 282-4699
evolvetheatrics.com

Technical support is so smooth and seamless that it's hardly noticeable. Evolve's many years of production experience are obvious, as this version of Annie is well choreographed, meticulously rehearsed, beautifully voiced and well worth attending.

With a clear-as-a-bell voice, Lyla Krauss is a delight in the title role. Perfectly cast, she is a belter with impressive range, and she also hits the acting beats like a much more experienced performer than she actually is.

Tom Youngdahl (Daddy Warbucks) returns to the stage after a hiatus, bringing good acting choices and a beautiful tenor voice. Lansing Community College acting student Lyndsey Camp (Grace) is an anchor performer and appears polished enough to pursue a career in professional theater. First-time performer Annabeth Peterson (Lily) is very funny and animated; her committed comedic performances are a highlight.

But the scenery-chewing star of the show is Jena Beal (Miss Hannigan), who turns in a powerhouse performance. Beal leans into playing the villain and delights in presenting a fearsome and ambitious character who can be cruel and calculating while pursuing her wicked schemes.

Music director Mike Dixon has done an outstanding job preparing the cast for the rigors of performing a deceptively challenging vocal score. The singing is confident and expressive. There is also excellent diction and clarity throughout, from the youngest on up.

Bob Hill's stage design is simple yet ingenious, featuring hand-painted interiors and exteriors by scenic artist Lynn Davis. I'm not sure if they would count as sets or props, but I particularly liked the practically lit burning barrels.

As Evolve has evolved over 21 years, artistic director Helen Hart has always been right there. She's on hand for performances and is attentive to customer feedback, and this dedication is a big reason for the company's many successes.



Courtesy

Lyla Krauss (left) and Tom Youngdahl in Evolve Theatrics' production of "Annie."

Remember my name: Brion O'Brion inducted into National Black Radio Hall of Fame

By MR. JOE WALKER

If Brion O'Brion had a theme song, the Power 96.5 WQHH-FM program director and personality would walk into a room accompanied by "Fame," the 1980 Oscar-winning song by the late pop icon Irene Cara.

As the chorus says, "Fame, I'm gonna live forever; baby remember my name."

O'Brion's name is going to be remembered, he was just inducted into the prestigious National Black Radio Hall of Fame class of 2026.

The glamorous induction ceremony took place at Sonesta Charlotte Lower South End in Charlotte, North Carolina on Sept. 19. O'Brion was enshrined under the Talented Brothers of Radio Award category, a place where his name will be remembered and he will figuratively live forever.

Photos by Mr. Joe Walker with Emmanuel Walker

During his acceptance speech, O'Brion singled out his mentor Rick Partey.

"If it wasn't for him - me starting out as his intern when I was 17-years-old back in Norfolk, Virginia," O'Brion said, "none of this would be possible. He was the first person I thanked during my acceptance speech."

O'Brion's career, he said, was built on being a life of the Partey.

That grounding and decades of experience helped to put O'Brion in the National Black Radio Hall of Fame alongside legends like Tom Joyner, Shirley Caesar, Funkmaster Flex, Chris "Ludacris" Bridges, Ed Lover, J. Anthony Brown, Chaka Khan and Stevie Wonder.

"It's an honor to be mentioned with all those legends," O'Brion said. "Sometimes I feel like I haven't been doing it long enough, even though I have. To be in the Hall of Fame with some people I looked up to is humbling. I'm excited to have that honor. Some people say it's nice to get your flowers while you're still alive.

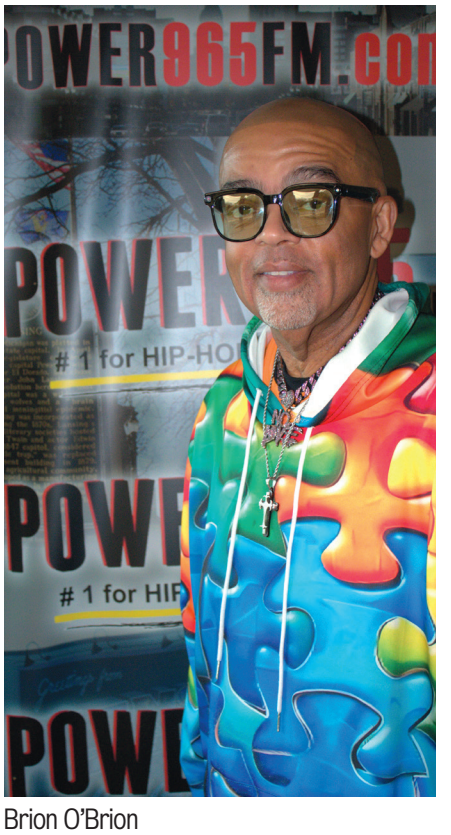
"That's one thing that made me a little emotional, getting it while I'm still currently alive and in the radio business," O'Brion continued. "There's some people they give these awards to that have passed away; the posthumous awards. I'm glad I was able to accept it while I've still got air in my lungs."



A product of Hampton, Virginia, O'Brion's radio career spans 38 years and he's still counting. He got his start taking deep breaths as an intern with Norfolk station WOWI 103 Jams, formally HOT 103. Gaining critical experience as his career progressed, O'Brion said he hit his stride while working in Ocean City and Salisbury in Maryland.

"I had a program director there named Wookie who taught me a lot,"

See Brion O'Brion, Page 20



Brion O'Brion

Conducting and superconducting

Guest maestro Yue Bao brings clarity, warmth to LSO

By LAWRENCE COSENTINO

Some sticks in the mud still insist it's uncool to applaud between movements of a major orchestral work, but that's not how we roll in Lansing. Whether it's Tchaikovsky or chip dip, if we love something, we let 'er rip and let the chips fall where they may.

Guest conductor Yue Bao and pianist Ying Li found that reflex at Friday's (Oct. 16) Lansing Symphony Orchestra concert and showed no mercy in hammering it. Their glittering, thundering, soaring carpet ride through the first movement of Tchaikovsky's First Piano Concerto provoked not just applause but a standing ovation, smack dab in the middle of the musical freeway.

Review

And why not? We are Lanstronauts. If you prick us, do we not bleed? If you wow us, do we not say, "Wow?"

Bao, Li and the orchestra spun like a top through Tchaikovsky's beloved concerto, combining crystal clarity with steamroller momentum and, best of all, palpable warmth. In the slow movement, Li pivoted from torrents of tumbling arpeggios to spellbinding semi-silences that held every second in sweet suspension. (A piano teacher friend informed me after the concert that Li didn't miss a single note, either. I had to take her word for it, because many of her sprints left my turtle-like ears in the dust.)

The woodwinds extruded gossamer threads of gorgeous melody, exhibiting flawless solo and ensemble work. By the time the finale rolled around, everyone was deep in the zone, and the synchronization between pianist and orchestra was so tight you couldn't fit a bristle of Tchaikovsky's beard between them.

A standing ovation between movements wasn't the only first Bao and Li brought to the evening. After the concerto, conductor and pianist crowded onto the piano bench and teamed up for a rip-roaring four-hand piano version of Leonard Bernstein's effervescent "Candide" overture. They dove into it a bit prematurely, got mixed up and had to start over again, but the false start only made the encore more charming, as if we were all in Bao's living room having a swinging soiree.

Friday's concert opened with another first: the U.S. premiere of Michigan State University composer Zhou Tian's aptly named "Threads," a zesty whirlwind of orchestral colors and textures that showcased Bao's skill at infiltrating the music and teasing out every thread.

The bad news is that it's time to panic a little bit. This business of picking a new music director for the orchestra isn't going to be easy. Bao brought something ineffably fresh to the hall, a deep-breathing, positive vibe that's hard to pin down but no less real. The paradox is that she did it almost totally through music making, without talking to the audience or grandstanding on the podium. She flashed the occasional smile when Li turned a nice phrase on the piano or a section of the orchestra swooped in with extra panache, but she didn't go in for expressive, extroverted gestures.



Photo by Leah Ramirez

Guest conductor Yue Bao (right) and guest pianist Ying Li teamed up for a rip-roaring four-hand piano version of Leonard Bernstein's effervescent "Candide" overture at Friday's (Oct. 16) Lansing Symphony Orchestra concert.

From the back, she resembled a water strider on a swiftly moving stream, her arms and torso constantly in motion, suspended on the musical meniscus by sheer surface tension. She was not so much conducting as superconducting — in the material physics, not the comic book, sense of the word. The music flowed on irresistibly, with zero friction and maximum energy efficiency.

But this was no chilly display of virtuosity, either. Somehow, Bao conjured an atmosphere of generous, heartfelt warmth without indulging in the huffing and puffing and sweating that go along with the clichéd public image of your average maestro.

After the crowd-pleasing highs of Tchaikovsky, Bao set herself a tougher test. Although Dvorak's Seventh Symphony is highly regarded by the cognoscenti, it lacks the sonic bells and whistles and melodic hooks that get people to their feet. It's as if Bao dared to enter the "Great British Bake Off" with an offering of basic black Russian bread.

But if the bread is satisfying enough, you don't need anything else. The orchestra plunged into the composer's molasses-dark moods and bittersweet reflections with total commitment. Every fresh challenge was met with aplomb, if not relish. Do you need all 50 string players to spiral up the scale an entire octave, in total sync, and land together on a drifting mote of dust? Can do. Do you need the last note of the slow movement to sound exactly like a deep breath? No problem. Do you need the horn section to embody the slanting rays of a setting sun? Got that.

Bao took extra care to let the music breathe. She massaged every last bit of emotion out of the meditative passages when the music gradually winds down, from the cloudy crags to the cozy foothills. You could almost see the lights coming on in the village below. That's when you glanced backward and realized you just climbed a very big mountain.

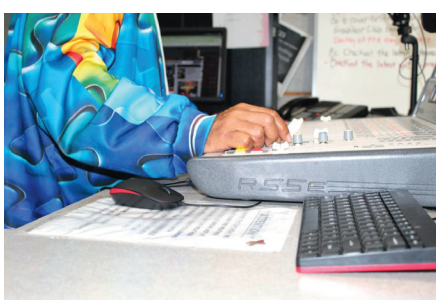
Brion O'Brion

from page 19

O'Brion said. "I was still in my early-to-mid-twenties. Then I was rolling!"

O'Brion's roll led to his current magnetism for celebrity engagement, a trait he shares with many of his Hall of Fame peers. Top stars regularly align their publicity schedules with his availability.

"I used to work for two stations in Louisiana where I became program director for both, and I think there is where things started picking up when it came to meeting celebrities," O'Brion said. "I met a lot of them in New Orleans going to the Essence Festival and things of that nature. I got a chance to meet a lot of important people there."





O'Brion said he plans to use the nomination to continue making an impact on Power 96.5, where he has been program director since January 2025, and to continue to reach his community of listeners.

"I always try to help the talent I have here working for me," O'Brion said. "My goal is to get them to the next level. I want them to grow and expand to get to bigger and better places. I try to pay it forward. That's how it was done for me."

Let's listen back to O'Brion's potential theme song, "Fame," which begins: "Baby, look at me and tell me what you see. You ain't seen the best of me yet."



Jennifer Graeser Dornbush publishes latest novel in 'Coroner's Daughter' series

By KURT ANTHONY KRUG

A visit to her old college roommate Nancy DeJong in Wisconsin inspired author Jennifer Graeser Dornbush's latest novel, "Walking on White" (Blackstone Publishing, $19.99).

DeJong's son Case, to whom the book is dedicated, has MED13L syndrome, a rare genetic neurodevelopmental disorder. Common symptoms include developmental delays, speech and communication problems, low muscle tone that affects coordination and balance, and physical deformities.

"Case is non-verbal and has a lot of cognitive disabilities," Dornbush said. "We were eating dinner, and he got really upset. He ran to the door, and there was a dead fly stuck in it. He would not let it go until that dead fly was taken care of. I thought it was really interesting.

"We started talking about him and what it's like to raise a non-verbal child with cognitive disabilities who can't speak or sign because his fine motor skills don't allow him to use sign language," Dornbush continued. "He's not disabled completely; he's got a very full life. He's an absolute joy to be around, always wanting to show you things and be with you."

Case's condition features heavily in "Walking on White," the sixth installment of the "Coroner's Daughter" mystery series.

In the fictional town of Freeport, Michigan, the frozen body of high school senior and cello prodigy Ethan Quon is found wedged deep within a snowbank. Series protagonist Dr. Emily Hartford is called in to determine how he died, but her findings are inconclusive.

Soon thereafter, Hartford uncovers a web of lies and rumors about Ethan, forcing the citizens of Freeport to close ranks as tensions rise. Several of Ethan's classmates begin receiving disturbing text messages sent from the deceased himself, which is impossible. Hartford learns the only person to witness the actual crime was teenager Jace Hill, who has MED13L syndrome.

On the surface, the book's title refers to the ferocious snowstorm that completely blankets Freeport at the time of Ethan's murder.

"I love weather as a character. I should've been a meteorologist," Dornbush said, laughing. "If you think about it, weather dictates so much of our lives, especially in Michigan. Anything you do, you check the weather first. Had there not been a snowstorm that night, Ethan might not be dead. Weather's a character in our own lives, always present."



Courtesy

Jennifer Graeser Dornbush

The title also refers to Jace, who will not step on snow because it's white. According to Dornbush, Case has an aversion to anything yellow. He won't touch anything yellow, nor will he eat anything yellow. In Jace's case, he won't touch anything white. He won't walk on snow unless the sidewalk or driveway is plowed.

Jace creates intricate artwork out of snowflakes to communicate what he saw, making the literal canvas of winter — the "white" — the very medium through which the truth of Ethan's murder is uncovered.

"I thought, 'How interesting would it be if Emily had to solve a case and the only person to see what happened is this kid? How would he talk about it? How would he express it emotionally?'" Dornbush said. "I'm sure there'd be interesting answers. He can't tell you about it. He can't sign to you about it. He can't draw it. He has to communicate in his own way, and Emily has to walk in his world and learn how to communicate with him because that's the only way she can figure it out."

The eldest of three daughters, Dornbush was born in Grand Rapids and raised in Fremont (the inspiration for Freeport). She splits her time between Los Angeles and Phoenix with Ryan, her husband of 31 years.

After graduating from Western Michigan Christian High School in Muskegon, she earned an undergraduate degree in English and communication arts from Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois, as well as a graduate degree in rhetoric from DePaul University in Chicago. Additionally, she holds certificates from the Forensic Science Academy in LA and the FBI Citizens Academy.

"I always knew I was gonna be a writer since I was a young girl, about 4 or 5. I've always been a storyteller. I have a great love for science and medicine, but I'm not cut out to practice in that field," Dornbush said. "I love that world, I love studying that world, I love the people in that world — they're very courageous and dedicated. To do it day in, day out, I'm just not built that way. I'm a storyteller."

Her father, Dr. Ronald Graeser, was the medical examiner for Newaygo County. Dornbush and her two younger sisters would assist him on cases.

"There was an airplane fatality where three people died. The next day, we went with our dad out in the field, and he wanted to make sure his office didn't miss anything since it was bright and sunny," Dornbush recalled. "We ended up finding some brain matter and pieces of skull. He was like, 'Look on the ground and tell me if you see anything unusual.' He explained to us what the brain does. It was an anatomy lesson more than anything."



According to Dornbush, the downstairs of her childhood home doubled as her father's office. He kept tissue samples in a freezer next to the frozen food. Vials of blood sat next to six-packs of pop in the refrigerator. She and her sisters even transported corpses in the family Suburban.

"Dinnertime conversations were always about the case of the day. He'd always quiz us: 'Why did this person die?' 'How do you think this person died?' It was always like a game of Clue," she said. "When he wanted to warn us that 'smoking kills,' he brought home a set of lungs in a jar of formaldehyde from an autopsy of a man who died of lung cancer."

Her father served as the main inspiration for the "Coroner's Daughter" series. Hartford is a composite of Dornbush and her sisters.

To date, Dornbush has written 11 books. She's also contributed stories to three mystery anthologies. She's currently working on the seventh book in the "Coroner's Daughter" series, which will be out in late 2027.

"The seventh book is the first one in the series all from Emily's point of view," Dornbush said. "She's really going introspective. She's alone, facing a challenging case where everyone's against her."

The series has also been optioned for a TV series. Dornbush couldn't give details about it, however.

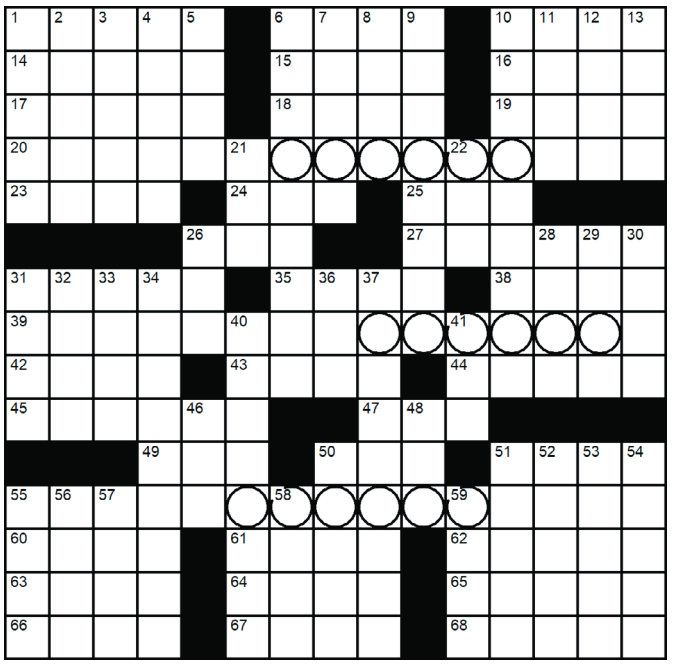
"I'm in the process of writing the first season. Fingers crossed," she said.

Visit jenniferdornbush.com.

Jonesin' Crossword

By Matt Jones

"Capital Gains" -- gaining an extra letter.
by Matt Jones
© 2026 Matt Jones



ACROSS
1. African capital on the Atlantic
6. Sound of surprise
10. Made an escape
14. Savory sensation
15. State where dirty sodas originated
16. "Touched by an Angel" costar Downey
17. Animal on old nickels
18. "A Streetcar Named Desire" director Kazan
19. Final writeup?
20. Living room controller
23. North ___, Alaska
24. "___ not worth much"
25. Oscar nominee for "The Crying Game"
26. Amorphous amount
27. "___ up" (Canadian hockey slogan that gained traction in 2025)
31. Helmet attachment
35. Prized Australian export
38. Suffix meaning "vision"
39. Fans of cruciverbalism (like you, I hope?)
42. Car with a four-ring logo
43. ___ out (barely get by)
44. "Chicago" actress Zellweger
45. Joint, back in the day
47. Word before maker or breaker
49. Vexation
50. Inc., in Cambridge
51. Gare du ___ (Paris train terminal)
55. Playful words to an infant
60. "Terrible" ruler
61. ___-speak (altered words to bypass social media filters)
62. Backless couch
63. "Scream" star Campbell
64. Genesis figure
65. Bandleader Miller
66. Became larger
67. Fast-food franchises that announced a switch from Pepsi to Coke beverages after 40 years
68. Alex's mom on "Family Ties"

DOWN
1. Brush (against)
2. Acid in proteins
3. "Fawlty Towers" owner
4. "Don't make ___!"
5. Spork part
6. Place to write your name in a museum or B&B
7. Collection of cartography
8. Nautical sheet
9. "Happy" singer Williams
10. Rain source?
11. Rebecca of the Basketball Hall of Fame
12. Release
13. November 3, for one
21. Museu do Amanhã site, casually
22. Anago, in sushi bars (if it's saltwater)
26. Navigation aid
28. Store door sign
29. Send via Western Union
30. Freelancer's postal encl.
31. Simba's uncle
32. Provable
33. Took the bus
34. "No idea, really"
36. Post's opposite
37. Building expansions
40. Return announcement?
41. Siderite, for one
46. Mesozoic, e.g.
48. Columbia House offerings, once
50. Sudoku solving skill
51. "Jurassic Park" actor Sam
52. "Up, Up and ___" (2006 book about Judaism and comics)
53. Chestnut horses
54. "Practical Magic" director Griffin
55. Attempt to message
56. At any point
57. Roof's overhang
58. Lemony Snicket's Count
59. Jigsaw starting point

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Answers on page 25

SUDOKU

Beginner

	8		7		2	6		3
	5			3	4		1	7
			1		9			
2						8	5	
5	9	3						
	7				6			
	2				1	5	7	8
						3	6	
	3				5	1		

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Free Will Astrology

By Rob Brezsny

Oct. 21-27, 2026

ARIES (March 21–April 19): The 18th-century Aries watchmaker John Harrison solved one of the great scientific problems of his time: how to determine longitude at sea. Many learned astronomers failed to crack the puzzle, yet Harrison, largely self-taught, persisted for decades to refine the method. His breakthrough transformed navigation and enhanced the safety of sea journeys. I nominate Harrison to be your inspirational role model in the coming weeks, Aries. Persistence combined with ingenuity and a trust in your hunches will be more important to your success than your mastery of the way things have always been done.

TAURUS (April 20–May 20): A greenhouse can coax flowers to open ahead of their natural timetable. I recommend applying a similar approach to the fears taking root in you. Rather than letting them spread gradually and feed you a stream of low-grade dread, push them toward an immediate peak. Let every concern become enormous and fully formed as quickly as possible. Invite the anxieties to arrive all at once. Then meet them in a decisive confrontation, exhaust their drama, and clear space for adventures that will give you deep, sweet pleasure. Set a date for your worrygasm, the grand finale of your fretting, for no later than 48 hours from now.

GEMINI (May 21–June 20): Gemini-born physicist Richard Feynman was famous not only for his brilliance but for his refusal to pretend he understood things he didn't. He routinely asked childishly simple questions in rooms full of experts. "But why does that happen?" was one of his favorites. Those naïve inquiries often cracked open problems the specialists had stopped seeing. He distrusted jargon and prized the ability to explain a complex idea in plain words. If you can't explicate it simply, he suggested, you don't really understand it. I invite you to adopt this as your strategy in the coming weeks, Gemini. Your superpowers will be to pose obvious questions everyone else is too proud or numb to ask, and to insist on answers you can actually understand.

CANCER (June 21–July 22): Cancerian dancer and choreographer Anna Halprin lived to 100 and danced to the end. She taught the idea that movement could heal. Our bodies, given permission to move freely and expressively, know how to release grief, summon joy, and restore wholeness. She once danced through her own cancer diagnosis as a form of medicine and lived for decades longer. Her lesson for you: Your body has its own intelligence, and you can enhance your ability to access it. In the coming weeks, let it lead. Dance, stretch, walk, sway. Trust what your flesh knows that your mind hasn't figured out yet.

LEO (July 23–Aug. 22): In at least one way, Leo, you'll be coming home during the coming weeks. Perhaps you will discover a sanctuary that brings out your best: a power spot where you feel unguarded and authentic. Or you may gather (or stumble into) the community you've always imagined, or link up with a web of allies and resources that once felt out of reach. You might dream of journeying to the land where your ancestors loved and labored for generations, or consider a pilgrimage to a storied place that holds the key to a mystery you're hungry to resolve.

VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sept. 22): Renaissance astronomer and astrologer Tycho Brahe spent decades collecting precise measurements of planetary motion. He never developed a final theory to explain the data, and he harbored mistaken theories about how the solar system worked. But his observations enabled his assistant Johannes Kepler to discover the laws of planetary orbits. You could play a similar role, Virgo. Your careful attention to details can lay the groundwork for important realizations, whether by you or someone working in collaboration with you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23–Oct. 22): I admire your ability to stay outside the conflict and offer detached, incisive commentary. I respect your preference for avoiding small-minded camps and partisan skirmishes. But in the coming days, I hope you'll step directly into the muck and bring the passionate contributions of a devotee who's invested in the outcome. Put the grand ideas aside and stir up good trouble in service of practical justice. Clever sidestepping won't do; what's needed are honest tests of what actually works. Be a pragmatist who makes soulful things happen through tender focus on the concrete tasks.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21): Are there parts of the past you're in bondage to? Maybe some shackles are even beloved to you, like a comfortable old belief, a protective habit, or a story about who you are that once helped you but now confines you. If you're like most of us (me included!), you have fond memories that unfortunately impose limits on your future. Whatever they may be, dear Scorpio, now is an excellent time to disengage from their hold on you. To begin, make one small but potent gesture of liberation. As you do, say this aloud: "I am no longer chained to outdated versions of myself." Alternate version, if you're feeling extra fiery: "I am no longer &^%$@# chained to any *%#@&+ outdated versions of myself."

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21): The Supreme Ministry of Astrological Myth has agreed to my request to temporarily give you a new designation. For the next four weeks, you are authorized to refer to yourself as the Contemplative Adventurer or the Meditative Rambler or the Pensive Pathfinder — or all three, if you like. In bestowing these titles, I'm encouraging you to free up heroic energy for use in your inner realms. One good way to capitalize on this blessing will be to relax in a comfy chair and negotiate truces with your demons. Another recommended activity: Ask the spirits of nature and the songs of birds to heighten your intuition about your future as you take long walks.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19): In 2029, I predict you'll get nanotech implants to fight the aging of your body, ensuring that you'll live well past 100. In 2032, you'll begin downloading your nightly dreams into a digital medium, allowing you to study them at length and bolster your ability to learn from their coded messages. In 2037, you and a loved one will be able to take advantage of technology that allows you to merge telepathically. In 2043, you'll take a vacation on the moon, where you'll dance exuberantly in low lunar gravity. But in 2027, your task will be simpler. You'll learn to love yourself better and treat yourself with more tender kindness than ever before. Now's a great time to get started!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18): Many celebrated chefs insist that acidity is an underestimated element that transforms good food into memorable food. A squeeze of lemon or a splash of vinegar awakens other flavors already present. Consider what the equivalent might be in your own life, Aquarius. What's the seemingly simple ingredient that could enliven everything else? More playfulness or more walking? More music, more honesty, or more sleep? The astrological omens are clear that now isn't the time to overhaul your entire existence. Instead, identify one or two subtle additions that make your existing gifts brighter.

PISCES (Feb. 19–March 20): Nothing is the same as what it appears to be, but neither is it the opposite of what it seems to be. Life isn't fair, yet we'd be wrong to say it's unfair. You should be on the lookout for the words that are NOT being said. Assume that every question has a hidden complication. Be skeptical if anyone tells you the current mysteries are unsolvable and be eager to discover the deeper riddle buried inside each superficial riddle. But now here's the good news. The maddening complexities will ultimately prove to be fun and helpful if you're diligent in untangling them. The key to success: Be tender as you explore uncomfortable thoughts and frustrating feelings.

Go to RealAstrology.com to check out Rob Brezsny's EXPANDED WEEKLY AUDIO HOROSCOPES and DAILY TEXT MESSAGE HOROSCOPES. The audio horoscopes are also available by phone at 1-877-873-4888 or 1-900-950-7700.

OUT on the TOWN

Events & Happenings in Lansing This Week

Events must be entered through the calendar at lansingcitypulse.com. Deadline is 4 p.m. Wednesday for the upcoming Wednesday edition. Charges may apply for paid events to appear in print. If you need assistance, please call Nicole at (517) 999-5066.

Wednesday, Oct. 21

A Course of Love - A Course in Love ongoing book study. All levels of knowledge or curiosity of the book are welcome at any time. 7-8 p.m. Virtual. Meeting ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting/Improv for Kids - Students will have a blast while gaining confidence, poise and good public speaking skills in this acting course. 5:15-6 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Autumn Hike: Guided Nature Hike - Enjoy an autumn hike to view the field, forests, and riverside of Grand Woods Park. Learn about the natural communities right in your backyard with Eaton County Parks naturalist Ben Savoie. 5:30-7 p.m. 4624 Grand Wood Drive, Lansing. facebook.com/deltatownship.

Bingo - Every Wednesday. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Bingo cafe 5 p.m. Early bird 6 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter.

Bookend Gallery Display by Nancy Aitcheson - Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Classical Theatre Class for Teens and Adults - A deep dive into the history, performance technique, and audition technique of performing the works of Shakespeare, his influencers, and his contemporaries. 8:15-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

College Night - Come talk with representatives from more than 50 colleges and universities, all in one place. 6-7:30 p.m. Lansing Community College, 600 N. Grand Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/lccstars.

Creative Dance for Kids - A wonderful opportunity for kids to dance without the pressures of technique and performance competition. 6-7 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Creepy Clay Crafting - Using air-dry clay, fake teeth, and fake eyeballs, design your own horrifying creature. Teen program. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Emergency Services - 6 p.m. LSW Emergency Services, 7425 Woodbury Road, Laingsburg. laingsburg.us.

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park pavilion every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Glee Singing Classes for Kids - A 45-minute class that introduces young performers to singing. 4:30-5:15 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Harvest Festival at Allen Farmers Market - Crisp autumn air, pumpkins, gourds, hard cider and a fall beer on tap, plus an open mic night — you won't want to miss this year's Harvest Festival! 3-6:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. facebook.com/AllenFarmersMarket.

Jack O' Lanterns Unleashed - Jack O' Lanterns Unleashed is mid-Michigan's premier family-friendly Halloween event, featuring more than 5,000 hand-carved jack o' lanterns in more than 30 scenes and themes. 7:30-9 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. fair.ingham.org/index_halloween.php.

Lansing Shuffle Big Show - From 7-9 p.m., dive into over a dozen board games, Nintendo Switch, and tabletop shuffle. Then, from 9-11 p.m., take the stage for standard karaoke, hosted by BigMan Genesis. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

Meditation - A free meditation gathering rooted in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, offering a calm space for mindfulness practice and reflection. 7-9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh, 3015 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lamcsangha.wordpress.com.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/recreation-leisure/farmers-market.

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - Noon-5 p.m. MICA, 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

Monthly Craft & Chat - A welcoming arts and crafts gathering for adults. Bring your own craft supplies or make use of the library's coloring materials as you connect with fellow creative individuals. 6-7 p.m. GLADL Wacousta Branch, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

Parkinson's Exercise: Tai Chi - Free group class tailored for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Improve balance and strength. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

Puppetry Class - This class will advance progressively in skill from sock puppet to mascot and everything in between. All ages welcome. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Songwriting Class - Our songwriting class is designed to help young songwriters develop their craft by giving them assignments that will teach them the foundations of good songwriting. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Sporcle Live Trivia - Join us at HopCat East Lansing every Wednesday for trivia! Two rounds, two chances to score prizes. First game: 7 p.m. Second game: 8 p.m. 300 Grove St., East Lansing. facebook.com/HopCatEastLansing.

Wedding Venue Open House - Hosted in collaboration with the Tucker Event Agency, staging tables will be available to design your autumnal spread from TEA's inventory! 6-8 p.m. Woldumar Nature Center, 5739 Old Lansing Road, Lansing. woldumar.org.

Thursday, Oct. 22

Acting 101 Class for Teens and Adults - Students will learn the fundamentals of acting: diction, projection, stage presence, stage directions, working off their partner, basic script work and improvisation. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults - Actors will learn more than just craft; they'll learn successful strategies for a career in acting, what it takes, and how to move into the business when it's time. 8-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Baby and Me - A lap-sit story time for babies and toddlers with their adult caregivers. Rhymes, songs, cuddles, and play are all included. Older siblings are welcome to attend. 10-10:45 a.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Bath Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. James Couzens Memorial Park, 13753 Main St., Bath. bathtownship.us/departments/farmers-market.php.

East Lansing Film Festival

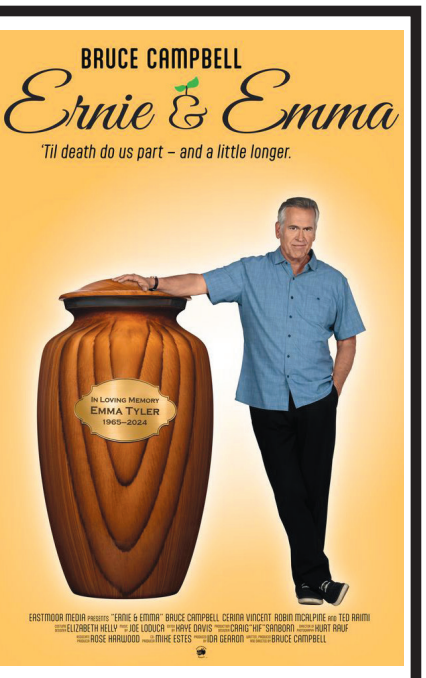
Thursday, Oct. 22-Sunday, Oct. 25
Hannah Community Center
819 Abbot Road, East Lansing
elff.com

After 29 years and hundreds of screenings, the East Lansing Film Festival is calling it quits.

The final festival, which promises to end things on a high note, kicks off with a new comedy-drama film by actor and filmmaker Bruce Campbell, known for his roles in "Bubba-Ho-Tep," "Burn Notice" and the "Evil Dead" series. The film, titled "Ernie & Emma," centers on small-town pear salesman Ernie Taylor and the journey he embarks on following the death of his wife.

The festival continues through Sunday with three blocks of short films, a block of short documentaries and several full-length independent gems. The full schedule is available online.

Tickets are $15 for the opening night feature and $12 for all other films, with a pass granting access to every screening available for $60.



Bookend Gallery Display by Nancy Aitcheson - Noon-6 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Building Thriving Businesses: Leadership, Culture, and Inclusion - Join Sunny Nadolsky, founder of Bridgecare Technologies and serial entrepreneur, for a session on the latest in talent acquisition and inclusive hiring practices. 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, 500 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/LansingChamber.

"Come From Away" - An uplifting, joyful musical that celebrates the connections we have with humanity in the face of inhumane circumstances. 7 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Diabetes PATH - Six-week workshop designed to help individuals with diabetes or pre-diabetes improve their health and feel better. 1-3:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

Dine & Discovery: Empanadas - Meet us in the Maker Kitchen to learn the skills and techniques to make empanadas! 6-8 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

"Humanity (1984/2026)": A Short Film by Troy Hale and Stella Govitz - This experimental documentary film project, created by Prof. Troy Hale and a team of MSU students, prompts questions on how camera data collection and automated AI analysis will influence our future. 6-7:30 p.m. MSU Museum, 409 W. Circle Drive, East Lansing. facebook.com/MSUMuseum.

Jack O' Lanterns Unleashed - 7-9 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. fair.ingham.org/index_halloween.php.

LaFontaine Lansing Alice in Wonderland Trick n Treat - Dive into Wonderland fun with costumes, treats, and spooky surprises! 5-7 p.m. LaFontaine Ford, 5827 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/95869671743.

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - Noon-5 p.m. MICA, 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

October Downtown Business Huddle: Nuthouse Sports Grill - We're taking our monthly gathering to Nuthouse Sports Grill for an afternoon of casual networking and great conversation. Light appetizers will be provided, and drinks will be available for purchase. 4-5 p.m. 420 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/downtownlansing.

The One Good Thing or "Are Ya Patrick Swayze?" - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Parkinson's Exercise: Rock-Steady Boxing - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space permits. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

Pumpkin Decorating - Avoid the mess at home and come to the library to decorate a pie-sized pumpkin. 6-7:30 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Relax & Rewind w/ DJ Butcher - Chill out and vibe to smooth throwback beats with DJ Butcher spinning live tunes all night long! 7-11 p.m. The Comfort Zone Cigar Lounge & Bistro, 600 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/73827881753.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble — Performing Group for All Ages - A wonderfully intense twice-a-week training program for students interested in taking their training to the next level. 5:30-7 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Shora Family Support Group - A weekly therapeutic community for families who homeschool or who are struggling to get their needs met within traditional school settings. 1-3 p.m. Shora House, 6639 Centurion Drive, Ste. 120, Lansing. shorahouse.com.

See Events, Page 24

STEAMfest

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 24
LCC Art and Sciences Building
419 N. Washington Square, Lansing
Free
lcc.edu/steamfest



Kids in grades K-6, along with their family members, are invited to Lansing Community College's downtown campus for a morning of science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics-themed activities as STEAMfest takes over the Arts & Sciences Building.

LCC faculty and community partners will teach a variety of STEAM topics through more than 50 activities, including slime making, sculpting, live animal encounters, planetarium shows, cardboard engineering, M&M's math and more. Attendees will receive a swag bag. Registration for the free event is available online.

Events

from page 23

South Lansing Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. 5016 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. facebook.com/SouthLansingFarmersMarket.

Spirit of Michigan Chorus Rehearsal - We're an inclusive community of women who sing a cappella in the barbershop style. We welcome all levels of musical experience. 6:45 p.m. Church of the Nazarene, 4851 Holt Road, Holt. spiritofmichiganchorus.com.

"The Traitors" Thursday Watch Nights at MP Social - 8-10 p.m. 313 N. Cedar St., Lansing. facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing.

Weekly TOPS Meeting - Join us if you want to Take Off Pounds Sensibly. Your first meeting is free. 6 p.m. Haslett Middle School, 1535 Franklin St., Haslett. Call (517) 927-4307 for more info.

Wine Bingo Night - Come play a bit, win some swag, and hang with us. It's free to play. 6-7:30 p.m. Horrocks Wine Bar, 7420 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. facebook.com/HorrocksWineBar.

Friday, Oct. 23

2026 Fall Recognition Dinner & Silent Auction - Join the Michigan Nature Association for a night of celebration as we recognize the donors and volunteers who make our continued success possible. 6:30-9:30 p.m. Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center, 219 S Harrison Road, East Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/16494438460.

Bookend Gallery Display by Nancy Aitcheson - Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Comedy Night - Gather for a night filled with laughter and community spirit, all while supporting the vital work of empowering women and families. The highlight of the evening will be internationally touring comedian Rik Roberts, whose clean and relatable humor uplifts and inspires. 7:30-9:30 p.m. South Church, 5250 Cornerstone Drive, Lansing. sharedpregnancy.org.

"Come From Away" - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Double Clutch Free Karaoke - First, second & third Fridays from 7-10:30 p.m. Bring your friends, significant other or coworkers and sing your little hearts out! High Caliber, 1982 W. Grand River Ave., Okemos. highcaliberkarting.com.

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park pavilion every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

For Us, The Living: A Confident Witch Circle - This Circle is about acknowledging this heritage and the responsibility we have to tend it and pass it on. 8-10 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

Friday Guided Tours - Each Friday at 1 p.m., a guided tour of the museum is conducted by one of our volunteer docents or staff members. Tours run an average of 45 minutes. Participation is covered by general admission to the museum. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

Jack O' Lanterns Unleashed - 7-9:30 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. fair.ingham.org/index_halloween.php.

Jigsaw Puzzle Challenge — 500 & 300 Pieces - Each team will put together as much of a puzzle as possible within a 75-minute time span. The fastest team to complete the puzzle wins. Refreshments included. 6:30-8 p.m. Delta Township Enrichment Center, 4538 Elizabeth Road, Lansing. facebook.com/deltatownship

Larry & Joe - Following a January 2025 sold-out show at The Robin Theatre, Larry & Joe return to Greater Lansing with a "Latingrass" show at the Fiddle's larger venue, University Lutheran Church. 7:30-9 p.m. 1020 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. tenpoundfiddle.org.

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - Noon-5 p.m. MICA, 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

MSU Men's Soccer vs. Washington Huskies - 7 p.m. DeMartin Soccer Complex, 261 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-soccer.

The One Good Thing or "Are Ya Patrick Swayze?" - 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

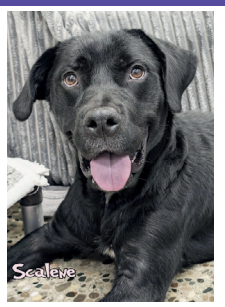
Parkinson's Exercise: Movement with Vitality - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space permits. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

Portrait Painting Class at Shiawassee Arts Center - A strong focus will be placed on color theory, painting techniques, and anatomy. Students may choose to work in oils or acrylics. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Fridays through Nov. 20. 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. shiawasseearts.org.

See Events, Page 25

Help Cats and Dogs Find A Home

INGHAM COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER TO ADOPT ONE OF THESE PETS, VISIT ICAS AT 600 BUHL ST., MASON, OR CALL 517-676-8370 TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT OR GO TO AC.INGHAM.ORG



Sponsored by Anne and Dale Schrader

Scalene

Meet Scalene, a 4-year-old Black Lab with a big nose and a lot to investigate! Scalene has a hound-like personality and loves to sniff everything she can find. She is a strong puller on leash, so she will need someone willing to work with her on her leash manners.



Sponsored by Debbie and Mark Bathurst

Phalanges

Phalanges and his friend Clavicle came to the shelter when their owner could no longer care for them. They are friendly, outgoing cats who enjoy attention and would love a home with another cat to keep them company. Both of them love ear rubs and chin scratches but Phalanges can get over stimulated quickly and would probably do better with older cat savvy kids who understand that sometimes cats need some time to themselves!



Sponsored by Kato and Mouse

Meninges

Meninges and her brother Dendrite were picked up as strays. They are tiny bundles of energy like most Jack Russells but sweet as can be. They love people and do well with other dogs (smaller dogs are recommended because of their size). They are looking for an active home preferably with terrier experience. If you love a small dogs with big personalities these two will keep you laughing!

Your ad here. Just $35 Your ad here. Just $35 Your ad here. Just $35 Your ad here. Just $35

Thanks to these ads, City Pulse has donated more than $10,000 to the Ingham County Animal Shelter.

Please help. Email mike@lansingcitypulse.com or call Mike Ellis at (517)999-6707

Ads appear in the 3rd issue of each month. The next deadline is Nov. 13th.

Events

from page 24

Self-Honoring Circle — Chapter 6: Sure I'll Do It - Through Cosmic Smash Booking, reflection, journaling, guided meditation, and supportive conversation, we practice noticing the difference between saying yes from pressure and saying yes from truth. 1-4 p.m. Virtual — register at deepsoulcreativeart.my.canva.site.

Spooky Market at MP Social - We're transforming MP Social into a Halloween pop-up market filled with local makers, artists, and small businesses. Grab a drink, browse a variety of vendors, and discover something new while supporting local! 6-9 p.m. 313 N. Cedar St., Lansing. facebook.com/mpsocial.lansing.

Saturday, Oct. 24

ABLE Allies Fundraising Dinner - Join us for ABLE Allies' inaugural fundraising dinner, "A Seat at the Table for Everyone." The dinner will celebrate the Allies, share the organization's work with the community, and raise funds to support continued programming and future opportunities. 5-7 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1611 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. ableallies.org.

Apple Butter Festival - Fenner's annual fall festival returns! Come check out the Apple Butter Festival, where you can vibe to live music, grab delicious eats from food trucks, paint pumpkins, enjoy cider and donuts, make apple butter in the maple grove and more! 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2036 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/fennernaturecenter.

Boo at the Zoo! - Gather your little goblins, don your most enchanting costumes, and step into a world where the animal kingdom meets the spooky season. Noon-5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

Bookend Gallery Display by Nancy Aitcheson - Noon-2 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Cocaine Anonymous Meeting - "We are here and we are free." 10 a.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 6500 Amwood Drive, Lansing.

"Come From Away" - 8 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

Cursed Library - An ancient curse has fallen on the library and now it's haunted! Find the right books to build the spell and save the library! This Halloween-themed "escape room" event is suitable for all ages. Registration req. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. GLADL Wacousta Branch, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

Design Workshop - Join us in person for a fun design workshop where you'll unleash your creativity and learn cool new skills with refreshments and laughs. 10-11:30 a.m. La-Z-Boy, 8439 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/74500306003.

Doggie Trick-or-Treat - Bring your four-legged friend to a fun-filled afternoon of trick or treating around downtown Mason! Noon-2 p.m. Ingham County Courthouse, 341 S. Jefferson St., Mason. facebook.com/masonchamber.

Downtown Trick-or-Treat - Downtown Trick-or-Treat is moving to Saturday this year! 10 a.m.-noon. Eaton Rapids City Hall, 200 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/CityOfEatonRapids.

Fall Adventure - Admission includes a corn maze, a cow train, a pumpkin house, fall photo ops, a culvert slide and more! And while you're here, don't forget the delicious fall donuts and special fall-themed cocktails at Burgdorf's Winery! 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Choice Farm Market, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs.

Fall to Black | A Black and Bling Affair - Get ready to shine and vibe at Fall to Black, an unforgettable in-person event where style meets sparkle! 7-11 p.m. The Venue by Eleven 11 Events, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy, Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/66291574313.

Food As Medicine for People and the Planet - Join the Michigan Clinicians for Climate Action as we explore the connections between climate change, agriculture, food, and health. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. MSU Union, 49 Abbot Road, East Lansing. michigancca.networkforgood.com.

Jack O' Lanterns Unleashed - 7-9:30 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. fair.ingham.org/index_halloween.php.

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - Noon-5 p.m. MICA, 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

The One Good Thing or "Are Ya Patrick Swayze?" - 2 and 7:30 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Positive Somebody Halloween Benefit Bash - This event will raise funds for our mental health programs and our sixth annual Family Mental Health Fun Day. Enjoy a costume contest, a dinner buffet, signature drinks, games, music by DJ Metro Melik, a silent auction, raffles and more. 6:30-10 p.m. REO Town Marketplace, 1027 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. positivesomebody.org.

Saturday Guided Tours - Each Saturday at 1 p.m., a guided tour of the museum is conducted by one of our volunteer docents or staff members. Tours run an average of 45 minutes. Participation is covered by general admission to the museum. R.E. Olds Transportation Museum, 240 Museum Drive, Lansing. reoldsmuseum.org.

Shiawassee Arts Center Halloween Gala - Celebrate the season with an evening of music, food, drinks, and Halloween fun. The festive evening will feature the smooth vocals of "Ghostly Crooner" Ryan DeHues. Guests are encouraged to come dressed in their favorite Halloween costume. 6-9 p.m. 206 Curwood Castle Drive, Owosso. shiawasseearts.org.

Statewide Michigan Functional Forum Event - A statewide networking and educational event for licensed healthcare providers exploring functional and integrative medicine. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. AC Hotel, 3160 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/29098254881.

Truck-R-Treat Halloween Event - Similar to a "truck or treat" event, attendees can score candy while checking out all the cool vehicles we will have on site! 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Royal Scot Bowl & Golf, 4722 W. Grand River Ave., Lansing. royalscot.net.

Turning Path Tarot Level II with Solinox - Ready to put down the little white book for good? Turning Path Tarot Level II takes you past the basics and into the parts of tarot that take you from getting acquainted to doing full readings. 3-4:30 p.m. Keys to Manifestation, 809 Center St., Lansing. manifestlansing.com.

UN Day Celebration - The evening will feature a plated meal, live entertainment, and the presentation of awards to our 2026 honorees for their contributions in global health, sustainable development, and education. 5-8 p.m. MSU Kellogg Center, 219 S. Harrison Road, East Lansing. gluna.org.

When I Grow Up! Career Exploration Series: Chemistry Careers - Kids and families will meet real professionals, explore hands-on activities, and take home an activity to see how their interests can turn into future careers. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Impression 5 Science Center, 200 Museum Drive, Lansing. facebook.com/impression5.

Sunday, Oct. 25

Apple Butter Festival - 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Fenner Nature Center, 2036 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/fennernaturecenter.

Boo at the Zoo! - Noon-5 p.m. Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Lansing. potterparkzoo.org.

"Come From Away" - 2 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com.

East Lansing Farmers Market - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Valley Court Park, 280 Valley Court, East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com/farmersmarket.

Fall Adventure - 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Choice Farm Market, 4212 E. Holt Road, Webberville. facebook.com/wine.burgdorfs.

Lansing Chili Cook-Off & Fall Festival

3-9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24
Jackson Field
505 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
facebook.com/lansinglugnuts



Several local businesses, including Looney Toons Catering, The Irish Pub, Capitol City Grille and Dagwood's Tavern & Grill, have thrown their hats into the ring to compete for the crown at Saturday's Lansing Chili Cook-Off.

Chili samples will be available from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. In addition, the event will feature live music, a beer tent, contests, a kids' zone and carnival rides.

General admission tickets are $15, granting entry to the event, unlimited chili samples and a commemorative tasting spoon. There is a $5 discount for kids 12 and under. VIP tickets are $50 and include early access to the chili tasting, exclusive event swag and one drink ticket. Ride tickets and wristbands will be available for an extra cost.

Free Trunk Or Treat at Zap Zone XL - 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 5220 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/73304352523.

Gorditas! - Enjoy making this Mexican staple with your community! 2:30-4:30 p.m. Bradly's HG, 319 E.César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.com.

Great Pumpkin Walk - Families can bring their costumed children to trick-or-treat at more than 30 downtown businesses. Attendees also will have the opportunity to decorate a pumpkin, enjoy entertainment and witness the 26-foot inflatable giant pumpkin. 1-4 p.m. Downtown East Lansing. cityofeastlansing.com.

Halloween in the Park Trick or Treat Trail - Stroll our trick or treat trail featuring 40+ local businesses and organizations, who will be handing out treats and goodies. 2-4 p.m. Valhalla Park, 2287 Pine Tree Road, Holt. delhitownshipmi.gov.

Intro to Injera - Join us for a hands-on cooking experience and learn to make injera, a traditional Ethiopian bread. 6-8 p.m. Altu's Ethiopian Cuisine, 4738 Central Park Drive, Okemos. eventbrite.com/o/13619448425.

Jack O' Lanterns Unleashed - 7-9 p.m. Ingham County Fairgrounds, 700 E. Ash St., Mason. fair.ingham.org/index_halloween.php.

Jugglers and Would-Be Jugglers - Jugglers meet at the Orchard Street Pump House at 2 p.m. Sundays. 368 Orchard St., East Lansing. mikemarhanka@gmail.com.

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - Noon-5 p.m. MICA, 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

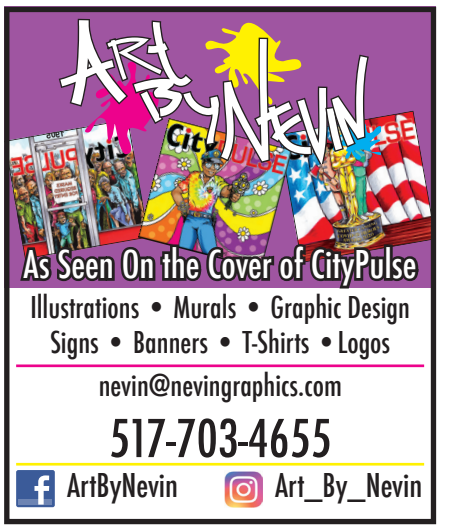
MSU Women's Soccer vs. Maryland Terrapins - 1 p.m. DeMartin Soccer Complex, 261 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/womens-soccer.

The One Good Thing or "Are Ya Patrick Swayze?" - 2 p.m. Williamston Theatre, 112 S. Putnam St., Williamston. williamstontheatre.org.

Quaker Meeting for Worship - Rich communal silence that invites thinking deeply, developing spiritually, loving fully, speaking our truths. Children's program provided. 10:30 a.m. Red Cedar Friends Meeting House, 1400 Turner St., Lansing. redcedarfriends.org.

Spooky Sprint 5K/10K/Half Marathon - Whether you're chasing a PR or just showing up for the fun, we're here to cheer you on every step of the way. 9 a.m. Burchard Park, 220 E. Maple St., Lansing. runsignup.com/Race/MI/Lansing/SpookySprintLansing.

See Events, Page 26



CROSSWORD SOLUTION

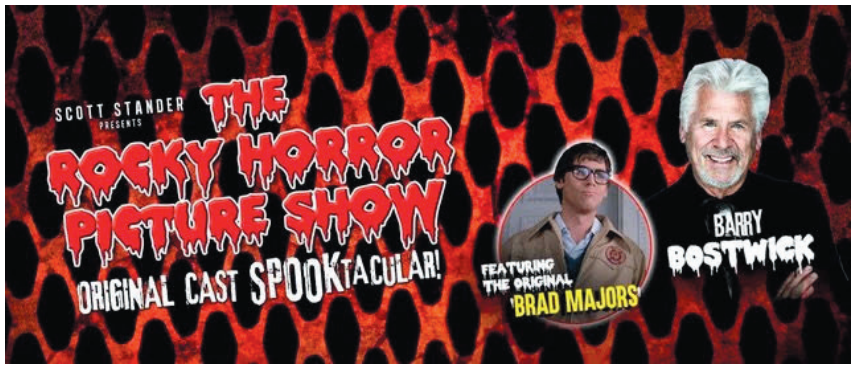
From Pg. 22

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From Pg. 22

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'The Rocky Horror Picture Show'

7:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25
Wharton Center
750 E. Shaw Lane, East Lansing
whartoncenter.com

A Halloween tradition, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" will screen at Michigan State University's Wharton Center this weekend as part of a 40-city "Spooktacular" tour hosted by the original Brad Majors, Barry Bostwick.

A live shadow cast will perform in sync with the original, unedited film, keeping alive the wonderfully chaotic midnight-movie tradition that audiences have cherished since 1975.

The event will also feature a Q&A with Bostwick, a costume contest and a special tribute to the late Tim Curry. Additionally, Bostwick will treat the crowd to a performance of "Once in a While," a song cut from the film but included in the stage show. Tickets range from $34 to $78, with a Bostwick meet-and-greet add-on available for $102.

Events

from page 25

Warlocktober - Join us for a 60-person D&D tournament spread across three rounds featuring 17 unique games where only ONE will survive. If you perish, you can explore the event and collect Curses & Monsters to enact revenge on those who caused your demise. 4 p.m. The Green Door, 2005 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. greendoorlive.com.

Weekly Drum Circle at Lake Lansing Park North - Join us every Sunday (weather permitting) for a fun and energetic afternoon of rhythm and drumming with the Greater Lansing Area Drummers! 2-4 p.m. 6260 E. Lake Drive, Haslett. lansingdrummers.wixsite.com.

Monday, Oct. 26

AA Women's Meeting - 6-7 p.m. Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Road, Okemos. 517-377-1444. AALansingMI.org.

Acting/Improv for Teens & Adults - Perform your characters and learn how to make them funnier and more dramatic! 6-7 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Bluebeard's Bride Wine & Candlelight Evening - Bluebeard's Bride is an investigatory horror tabletop role-playing game for up to five people, based on the Bluebeard fairy tale. This session will be run by Sadonna. Wine and charcuterie are included in the $30 ticket price. 6:30-11 p.m. Homebrew Tabletop Game Lounge, 219 ✪ N. Bridge St., Grand Ledge. homebrewgamelounge.com.

Bookend Gallery Display by Nancy Aitcheson - Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Dementia Caregiver Series - Three-session series intended to reduce stress for those caring for a person with dementia by providing useful tools and information. 1:30-3 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. To register, call 517-887-1465 or email histedc@tcoa.org.

EnhanceFitness - Join us for free, fun, core-strengthening exercise. We meet at All Saints Lutheran Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 9-10 a.m. 720 W. South St., Mason. allsaintsmason.org.

Euchre - 1-3 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter.

Fiber Circle at Charlotte Community Library - A social gathering for knitters, crocheters, and stitchers of all ages and skill levels. 5:30-7 p.m. 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park pavilion every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Haunted Michigan: Mysteries of the Great Lakes - Join author and shipwreck hunter Ross Richardson for a spine-tingling presentation diving deep into Michigan's most baffling poltergeist activity, real haunted houses, legendary shipwrecks, and mysterious phenomena. 6-8 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

History of Plant Classification - We'll take a closer look at how plants have been classified and named throughout history, why some plant names have become controversial, and what the language of botany reveals about the people and cultures who created it. 2-3 p.m. MSU Horticulture Gardens, 1066 Bogue St., East Lansing. canr.msu.edu/hrt/our_gardens.

Music Theory for Singers Class - This is a great opportunity for young and older singers to move their singing performances forward! 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Parkinson's Exercise: Yoga - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space allows. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

Ruhala Broadway Ensemble — Performing Group for All Ages - A wonderfully intense twice-a-week training program for students interested in taking their training to the next level. 5:30-7 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Singing for Joy Class - A class designed for people who want to sing just for fun. Whether you're a beginner or an accomplished singer, this class will bring you joy. 8-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Tuesday, Oct. 27

A Course in Miracles Study Group - A group study of A Course in Miracles from the Foundation for Inner Peace. All levels of knowledge including beginners are welcome. 7-8 p.m. Virtual — find Zoom link at unitylansing.org.

Acting 101 Class for Teens and Adults - Students will learn the fundamentals of acting: diction, projection, stage presence, stage directions, working off their partner, basic script work and improvisation. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting Ensemble Class for Teens & Adults - Actors will learn more than just craft; they'll learn successful strategies for a career in acting, what it takes, and how to move into the business when it's time. 8-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Acting/Improv for Kids - Students will have a blast while gaining confidence, poise and good public speaking skills in this acting course. 5:15-6 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Bookend Gallery Display by Nancy Aitcheson - The Bookend welcomes Nancy Aitcheson to our Gallery for the month of October. 12-4 p.m. Haslett Branch Library, 1590 Franklin Street, Haslett.

Dine & Discovery: Kimchi - Learn how to make kimchi, a fermented vegetable side dish that has been a staple in Korean cuisine for thousands of years. 6-8 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. allenneighborhoodcenter.org.

Family Movement Group - This is a parent-child therapeutic movement group designed to support healthy regulation and strengthen family connection through shared movement experiences. 5:30-6:30 p.m. Shora House, 6639 Centurion Drive, Lansing. shorahouse.com.

Glee Singing Classes for Kids - A 45-minute class that introduces young performers to singing. 4:30-5:15 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Karaoke - Grab the mic from 8 to 10 p.m. and enjoy $7 signature cocktails, $7 craft beer pints, a $7 Southern peach mocktail, a $12 chicken-bacon flatbread and a $6 cheese quesadilla. One North Kitchen & Bar, 1310 Abbot Road, East Lansing. onenorthdining.com.

MSU Men's Soccer vs. Wisconsin Green Bay Phoenix - 6 p.m. DeMartin Soccer Complex, 261 Kalamazoo St., East Lansing. msuspartans.com/sports/mens-soccer.

Nature Journaling: Exploring Like a Scientist - In this hands-on six-week program, kids will learn how scientists study nature by keeping their own scientific nature journals. Registration req. 4-5:30 p.m. GLADL Wacousta Branch, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

Open Swim Improv Comedy - Anyone in the community can come to participate in improv comedy games, or just sit in the audience, suggest prompts, and watch the silliness unfold! The event is free for your first visit and $20 annually after that. 7-9 p.m. Riverwalk Theatre, 228 Museum Drive, Lansing. riverwalktheatre.com/barebones.html.

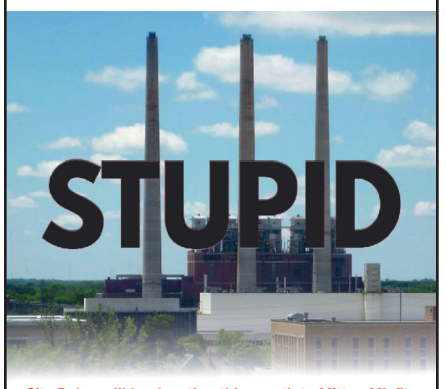
Parkinson's Exercise: Balance, Conditioning and Strength - Free exercise class for people with Parkinson's. Caregivers are welcome to participate if space allows. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

The Poetry Room Open Mic presents The Crash Out - Whether you're a seasoned poet or stepping onto the stage for the first time, this is your platform to share your words with a supportive audience. Optional theme: Go ahead and crash out. 7:30-9 p.m. The Robin Theatre, 1105 S. Washington Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/The517PoetryRoom.

See Events, Page 27

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City Pulse will be donating this month to Mitten Misfits Farm Sanctuary on behalf of STUPID Lansing.

Events

from page 26

Spooooky Sip n Shop - We'll have over 15 vendors, free face painting, spooky decorations, a VHS movie party and more! Don't forget to wear a costume! 8-11 p.m. The Avenue Café, 2021 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing. facebook.com/avenuecafe2021.

Story Hour - Participants will enjoy activities including stories, songs, rhymes, guided play, and crafts. Adults leave their children at the program after signing them in, but they must remain in the library building. Ages 3-6. 10-11 a.m. Charlotte Community Library, 226 S. Bostwick St., Charlotte. charlottelibrary.org.

Tools for Effective Facilitation: Working with Groups in Conflict - A practical four-day workshop focused on developing comfort with high-heat situations in group settings. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Farm Bureau, 7373 W. Saginaw Hwy., Lansing. canr.msu.edu/facilitative_leadership.

Trivia at Lansing Shuffle - 7:30-9 p.m. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. 517-940-4365. lansingshuffle.com.

Wednesday, Oct. 28

517 Social Singles Mixer (Ages 30–45) - We'll provide an optional go-at-your-own-pace icebreaker activity, tabletop games, and conversation starters so you can relax and enjoy interacting with new people in a fun, low-pressure environment! 7-9 p.m. Davis Pavilion at Fenner Nature Center, 2020 E. Mount Hope Ave., Lansing. eventbrite.com/o/121710135609.

A Course of Love - A Course in Love ongoing book study. All levels of knowledge or curiosity of the book are welcome at any time. 7-8 p.m. Virtual. Meeting ID: 177 417 886. Passcode: 601744. unitylansing.org.

Acting/Improv for Kids - Students will have a blast while gaining confidence, poise and good public speaking skills in this acting course. 5:15-6 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Allen Farmers Market - 3-6:30 p.m. Allen Neighborhood Center, 1629 E. Kalamazoo St., Lansing. facebook.com/AllenFarmersMarket.

Bingo - Every Wednesday. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. Bingo cafe 5 p.m. Early bird 6 p.m. Eaton Rapids Senior Center, 201 Grand St., Eaton Rapids. facebook.com/EatonRapidsSeniorCenter.

Bookend Gallery Display by Nancy Aitcheson - Noon-4 p.m. Haslett Library, 1590 Franklin St., Haslett. cadl.org/about/our-locations/haslett.

Classical Theatre Class for Teens and Adults - A deep dive into the history, performance technique, and audition technique of performing the works of Shakespeare, his influencers, and his contemporaries. 8:15-9:30 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Clay Play - Kids can enjoy time to create with clay! We'll have several different kinds on hand, from PlayDoh to Sculpty-type clays for older kids to enjoy. 6-7 p.m. Grand Ledge Area District Library, 131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.libcal.com.

Coloring Pages and Stencil Bookmarks - Come sit down and color a coloring page or use a stencil to create a fun bookmark! 10 a.m.-7 p.m. GLADL Wacousta Branch, 9135 W. Herbison Road, Eagle. gladl.libcal.com.

Creative Dance for Kids - A wonderful opportunity for kids to dance without the pressures of technique and performance competition. 6-7 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

EnhanceFitness - Join us for free, fun, core-strengthening exercise. We meet at All Saints Lutheran Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 9-10 a.m. 720 W. South St., Mason. allsaintsmason.org.

Fall Speaker Series presents Dan Nevins - Dan, a double amputee, cancer survivor, teacher, and internationally recognized speaker, knows what it means to have life change in an instant. Join us for a powerful keynote about adversity, purpose, resilience, and strength. 10:30-11:45 a.m. Peckham, 3510 Capital City Blvd., Lansing. peckham.org.

Fitness Over 50! Exercise Group - The Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Stretch and Flex Exercise group exercises at Central Park pavilion every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 9-10 a.m. 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos. meridian50plus.com.

Glee Singing Classes for Kids - A 45-minute class that introduces young performers to singing. 4:30-5:15 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Lansing Shuffle Big Show - From 7-9 p.m., dive into over a dozen board games, Nintendo Switch, and tabletop shuffle. Then, from 9-11 p.m., take the stage for standard karaoke, hosted by BigMan Genesis. 325 Riverfront Drive, Lansing. lansingshuffle.com.

Master the Art of Pasta! - Learn to craft vibrant pastas bursting with seasonal flavor. 6-8 p.m. Bradly's HG, 319 E. César E. Chávez Ave., Lansing. bradlyshg.com.

Meditation - A free meditation gathering rooted in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh, offering a calm space for mindfulness practice and reflection. 7-9 p.m. Chua Van Hanh, 3015 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Lansing. lamcsangha.wordpress.com.

Meridian Township Farmers Market - 3-7 p.m. Marketplace on the Green, 1995 Central Park Drive, Okemos. meridian.mi.us/recreation-leisure/farmers-market.

Mid Michigan Art Guild Exhibit - Noon-5 p.m. MICA, 1210 Turner St., Lansing. micharts.org.

Parkinson's Exercise: Tai Chi - Free group class tailored for people with Parkinson's and their caregivers. Improve balance and strength. 1 p.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. To register, call 517-364-8800. lapsg.org.

Parkinson's Support Group Social Lunch - Join us for a relaxed social lunch. Cost of meal is your responsibility. 11:30 a.m. Michigan Athletic Club, 2900 Hannah Blvd., East Lansing. lapsg.org.

Puppetry Class - This class will advance progressively in skill from sock puppet to mascot and everything in between. All ages welcome. 7-8 p.m. Ruhala Holistic Arts Center, 1846 Haslett Road, East Lansing. ruhalacenter.com.

Silent Book Club at BrickHaven Brewing Co. - Everyone brings a book of their choice to read. We'll read silently for about 45 minutes, then everyone will have a chance to share a bit about their book. Registration req. 6-7 p.m. 200 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge. gladl.org.

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN
SALE OF GREEN BURIAL SPACES MORATORIUM
Moratorium No. 2026-2
Notice of Adoption

Please take notice that on September 30, 2026 the Township Board of Williamstown Township adopted moratorium #2026-2, which imposes a one(1) year moratorium on the sale, reservation, and transfer of new green burial spaces in Township cemeteries, while honoring rights of burial previously purchased, in order to allow appropriate time to study and potentially adopt regulations governing green burials.

Copies of the moratorium may be obtained from Robin A. Cleveland, Williamstown Township Clerk, at the Williamstown Township Hall located at 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston, MI 48895 during regular business hours. It contains the following section and catch-lines: (1) Title; (2) Definitions; (3) Temporary Moratorium; (4) Existing Rights of Burial; (5) Severability and Form; (6) Repeal; (7) Waiver; and (8) Effective Date.

Published by Order of the Township Board
Williamstown Township, Ingham County

Robin A. Cleveland, Township Clerk
Phone: (517) 655-3193
Web: https://williamstownmi.gov/clerks-office/
E-mail: clerk@williamstowntownship.com

Publication Date: October 21, 2026

CP#26-392

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
EAST LANSING HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given of the following public hearings to be held by the East Lansing Historic District Commission on Thursday, November 12, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., at the City of East Lansing Public Library, 950 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan 48823:

1. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from John Hudgins, located at 139 Kedzie Street. The applicant request is for replacement of a wood porch to restore the brick surround, concrete steps, wood decking and metal handrails for the front porch.
2. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Noah McNulty, located at 225 Collingwood Drive. The applicant request is to install one Andersen Woodwright double hung window to the bedroom addition on the back of the house.
3. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Ashley Sutton, located at 937 Cresenwood Road. The applicant request is to replace the existing architectural asphalt shingle roofing with Brava composite shake shingle roofing.
4. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Greg Main, located at 603 Division Street. The applicant request is for approval for demolition of a storm damaged garage.
5. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Casey Odom, located at 831 Huntington Road. The applicant request is for gutter and downspout replacement with a larger system.
6. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Jarrod Olsen, located at 501 Hillcrest Avenue. The applicant request is to replace cedar siding with T1-11 siding.
7. A public hearing to receive and discuss consideration of a Certificate of Appropriateness from Holly Jo Sparks, located at 140 Collingwood Drive. The applicant request is to replace the handrail and do concrete repair.

Owners of structures containing more than four (4) dwelling units or other distinct spatial areas owned or leased by different persons are requested to post this notice at the primary entrance to the structure.

A staff report (Agenda Item Report) for the public hearing will be published on the City's website the Friday before the meeting. To locate staff reports, please visit the City's public meeting portal at https://cityofeastlansing.civicweb.net/Portal/ and select the meeting date.

For more information on the request please contact Alycia Reiten at (517) 319-6941 or areiten@cityofeastlansing.com. Materials related to the request are available for viewing at:

Department of Planning, Building, and Housing
East Lansing City Hall,
410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823

between the hours of **8:00 am and 12 pm, 1:00 pm and 5:00 pm** or on the City's website located at www.cityofeastlansing.com/currentapplications. Written comments may be sent by 5 pm the day prior to the public hearing to the Historic District Commission, City of East Lansing, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, Michigan, 48823, or by email to coelhdc@cityofeastlansing.com.

The City of East Lansing will provide reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as interpreters for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the meeting, to individuals with disabilities upon request received by the City seven (7) calendar days prior to the meeting. Individuals with disabilities requiring aids or services must contact the Planning, Building, and Development Department, 410 Abbot Road, East Lansing, MI, 48823, (517) 319-6930 (TDD Number: 1-800-649-3777) or via email at ldegarmo@cityofeastlansing.com.

Dated: October 15, 2026
East Lansing, MI 48823

Emily Gordon
City Clerk

CP#26-395

NOTICE TO CREDITORS, RONALD LEE NIELSEN REVOCABLE TRUST

TO ALL CREDITORS: The RONALD LEE NIELSEN REVOCABLE TRUST was established in Ingham County, MI, on 03/01/2025. The settlor, Ronald Lee Nielsen, was born 06/10/1949 and died 10/01/2026. Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the decedent or the trust will be forever barred unless presented to the trustees within four (4) months after the date of publication of this notice, 10/21/2026. Trustees: Edward Francis Westfield Jr. & Carol Ann Pitts, Co-Trustees, PO Box 4302, East Lansing, MI 48826-4302.

CP#26-398

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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: NOTICE OF ELECTION
DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

Meridian Charter Township
Notice of November 3, 2026 General Election

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a General Election will be held in Meridian Township, Ingham County, Michigan, on Tuesday, November 3, 2026.

For the purposes of electing candidates for the following office:

- **GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENTANT GOVERNOR**
- **SECRETARY OF STATE**
- **ATTORNEY GENERAL**
- **UNITED STATES SENATOR**
- **REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS**
- **STATE SENATOR**
- **REPRESENTATIVE IN STATE LEGISLATURE**
- **MEMBER OF STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**
- **REGENT OF UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN**
- **TRUSTEE OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY**
- **GOVERNOR OF WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY**
- **TOWNSHIP TREASURER**
- **JUSTICE OF SUPREME COURT**
- **JUDGE OF COURT OF APPEALS – 4TH DISTRICT – INCUMBENT POSITION**
- **JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT – 30TH CIRCUIT – INCUMBENT POSITION – 6 YEAR TERM**
- **JUDGE OF CIRCUIT COURT – 30TH CIRCUIT – INCUMBENT POSITION – PARTIAL TERM ENDING 01/01/2029**
- **JUDGE OF PROBATE COURT – INGHAM COUNTY**
- **JUDGE OF DISTRICT COURT – 55TH DISTRICT – INCUMBENT POSITION**
- **BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEMBER – LANSING COMMUNITY COLLEGE**
- **LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER**

For the purposes of voting on the following proposals as listed below:

- **PROPOSAL 2026-1 A PROPOSAL TO COVENE A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DRAFTING A GENERAL REVISION OF THE STATE CONSTITUTION**
- **PROPOSAL 2026-2 A PROPOSED INITATED LAW TO PROHIBIT CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CERTAIN REGULATED UTILITIES AND GOVERNMENT CONTRACTORS AND APPLY CAMPAIGN FINANCE LAWS AND REGULATIONS TO ADDITIONAL TYPES OF POLITICAL COMMUNICATIONS**
- **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN PARK MILLAGE RENEWAL**
- **CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN POLICE AND FORE PROTECTION MILLAGE RENEWAL**

The full text of the ballot proposals and sample ballots can be found at www.mi.gov/vote or can be viewed at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office, 5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the Clerk's Office.

Polls at said election will be open at 7:00 a.m. and will remain open until 8:00 p.m.

Photo Identification OR Affidavit Required to Vote:

Under Michigan law upheld by the Michigan Supreme Court, ALL voters will be asked to show photo identification to vote at the polls. Voters without valid identification will be required to fill out and sign an affidavit in order to receive a ballot.

Providing a safe and welcoming, sustainable, prime community.

A PRIME COMMUNITY
meridian.mi.us

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY
LEGAL AD NOTICE: NOTICE OF ELECTION
DATE: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

LIST OF POLLING LOCATIONS:

Pct. 1	St. Luke Lutheran Church, 5589 Van Atta Rd, Haslett, MI 48840	Pct. 8	Faith Lutheran Church, 4515 Dobie Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
Pct. 2	Haslett Community Church, 1427 Haslett Rd., Haslett, MI 48840	Pct. 9	Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
Pct. 3	St. Luke Lutheran Church, 5589 Van Atta Rd, Haslett, MI 48840	Pct. 10	Meridian Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C Smith Ct, Haslett, MI 48840
Pct. 4	Haslett Community Church, 1427 Haslett Rd., Haslett, MI 48840	Pct. 11	Okemos Library, 4321 Okemos Rd., Okemos, MI 48864
Pct. 5	Okemos Community Church, 4734 Okemos Rd., Okemos, MI 48864	Pct. 12	Central Fire Station #91, 5000 Okemos Road, Okemos, MI 48864
Pct. 6	Red Cedar Church, 550 W. Grand River, Okemos, MI 38864	Pct. 13	2|42 Community Church 2600 Bennett Rd, Okemos, MI 48864
Pct. 7	Ingham County Rehab Facility, 3860 Dobie Rd., Okemos, MI 48864	Pct. 14	2|42 Community Church 2600 Bennett Rd, Okemos, MI 48864

To comply with the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), voting instructions will be available in audio format and in Braille. Arrangements for obtaining the instructions in these alternative formats can be made by contacting the township clerk in advance of the election. All polling locations are accessible for voters with disabilities.

Beginning Tuesday, October 20th, anyone who qualifies as an elector must register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the following locations and times:

Meridian Township Clerk
Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Road
Okemos, MI 48864

Regular Business Hours:
Monday-Friday from 8 am to 5 pm

In addition to regular business hours, the Meridian Township Clerk's Office will be open the following dates and times:

o Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
o Sunday, November 1, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
o Election Day, Tuesday, November 3, 2026 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

To register to vote, check your voter registration information, find your polling location, or view your sample ballot, check the Secretary of State's Voter Information website at www.mi.gov/vote

ABSENT VOTER BALLOTS:
Any registered voter may request an Absent Voter Ballot. The Meridian Township Clerk's Office must have a signed application to issue an Absent Voter Ballot. You may apply online at www.mi.gov/vote or at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office.

Monday, November 2, 2026, at 4 pm is the deadline to request an absentee ballot in person, except for those who register to vote on Election Day. Those registering to vote on Election Day, November 3, 2026, are eligible to receive an Absent Voter Ballot at the Meridian Township Clerk's Office.

EARLY VOTING CENTER:
All qualified electors in the Meridian Township Clerk's Office have the option to vote early in person, beginning Saturday, October 24th through Sunday, November 1st, 2026 from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM daily.

The Early Voting Center is located at:

Meridian Township Town Hall Room Municipal Building
5151 Marsh Road, Okemos, MI 48864

Angela Demas
Meridian Township Clerk

CP#26-396

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meridian.mi.us

FOOD & DRINK

DINING OUT IN GREATER LANSING

RJ's does burgers and ice cream right



Lawrence

By GABRIELLE LAWRENCE

When I was growing up, there was a place called the Country Parlour on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard that served ice cream sundaes. My siblings and I were only successful in convincing my parents to take us there a few times a year, and it has now gone the way of the Royal Fork and the novelty gift shop in downtown Lansing called Ma-Ah's, all lost to the ages.

Every summer, when the entire Lawrence family comes down with ice cream fever, I try to think of an appropriate substitute location — somewhere we can sit down and enjoy our ice cream and maybe even get an order of fries to make it a complete meal. Until RJ's came into my consciousness recently, nowhere fit the bill.

My family visited RJ's for a Friday night dinner recently, and we were immediately besotted with the décor. They go hard on the whimsical ice-cream-parlor theme, with oversized pink light fixtures, an ice cream bench and lots of decorations. The proprietor told us that they frequently host events, and I believe it. The setting is perfect for a birthday party or girls' night out.

We placed our order at the counter and claimed a table to wait for the food. I didn't know what to expect and was pleasantly surprised that the food was all made to order. My family relaxed and admired the pictures hanging on the wall, including one of the family behind RJ's with my oldest friend, CJ Quinney. There are also photos of Lansing and Michigan State University notables like Magic Johnson and Steve Smith, and I love a personal, local touch like that.

Mr. She Ate inhaled his chicken hoagie ($13.25), remarking that the flavor was excellent and the bread was soft but still hearty enough to stand up to the filling. I had a smash burger ($9.49), which was textured around the edges, the way that I like it.

RJ's offers several different seasonings for its fries ($3.49/small). I tried the garlic parmesan. The fries were crispy and salty, and the seasoning added an interesting dimension without being overwhelming. I also learned on that day that adding seasoning to my fries is an excellent way to prevent my children from eating all of them.

We promised ice cream, and I'm a mom of my word. We each had a scoop ($5) of our preferred flavor and have since named RJ's our go-to local spot for our favorite summer treat. There's a divide in our family: I like hand-dipped ice cream, while Mr.

See She Ate, Page 30

SHE ATE HE ATE

RJ's Burgers & Ice Cream Co.

1399 E, Grand River Ave,, East Lansing

Noon-10 p.m. Monday-Saturday

3-9 p.m. Sunday

(517) 481-6574

rjsburgersandicecreamco.com



Bryan Beverly for City Pulse

The fries at RJ's are a hot and crispy treat to complement your burger or ice cream — or both.



Beverly

By BRYAN BEVERLY

There's something about RJ's Burgers and Ice Cream Co. in East Lansing that makes you want to linger a little longer.

This place is bright, bold and decidedly not boring. It's the kind of environment that invites you to put down your phone, settle in with friends and enjoy the simple pleasures of burgers and ice cream. In a college town where students have plenty of places to eat, that uniqueness matters.

And then there's co-owner Robert Wilkie, who brings a warm, engaging personality to the operation. He understands that building a restaurant is about more than what comes out of the kitchen. It's about making people feel welcome and giving them a reason to return.

Of course, personality can only take an eatery so far. The long-term success of RJ's will depend on its ability to pair its inviting atmosphere and enthusiastic hospitality with food and service that keep people coming back. But the ingredients for a memorable local spot are there: a distinctive look, an approachable vibe and a proprietor who recognizes the value of making a personal connection.

What's good

The fries ($4.49/large) at RJ's are a hot and crispy treat to complement your burger or ice cream — whatever your pleasure. The skin-on potatoes, cut "carnival-style" and served in paper cups, reminded me of Riverfest or Boblo Island. You can kick the flavor up several notches with various seasoning options for 50 cents extra. I chose salt and vinegar the first time and dill pickle the next. Both were pungent in all the right ways, and I look forward to trying the Cajun and garlic parmesan seasonings on future visits.

What's really good

On my first visit, I tried the double smash burger ($9.49), which was very solid. Customers can choose from four different cheeses, seven different toppings and six different sauces. I went with the A1 steak sauce, mayo, cheddar cheese and pickles. While the smashing of the patties made the handheld smaller than I would have liked, the amount of flavor packed into each bite was extremely impressive.

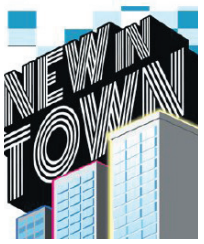
My second trip was even better. I got the double-double turkey burger with bacon ($14.50). This time around, I added grilled onions, pepper jack cheese and the house Moo Moo sauce. The turkey patties stood taller after being smashed than the beef, and the tangy sauce paired extremely well with the grilled onions.

Best bite

The ice cream, obviously. One scoop ($5) is plenty for me these days, but it was truly enjoyable. The butter pecan was decadent but not so rich that I wasn't able to finish. The pecans added a salty, earthy contrast to the creamy treat. If butter pecan isn't your speed, there are 26 other flavors to try, ensuring something for everyone.

Greater Lansing gains a new Aldi location

By LIEZA KLEMM



Aldi

2110 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
9 a.m.–8 p.m. daily
(855) 955-2534
aldi.us

The grand opening of the newest Greater Lansing Aldi store on Thursday (Oct. 15) had shoppers lined up around the building. Doors opened at 8:45 a.m., and the first 200 customers received a gift bag containing a sampling of Aldi products and a gift card.

Some customers even parked camping chairs in line to secure a spot.

DeWitt resident Nick Lewis planned on arriving early for a chance at the complimentary gift bag.

But by 8:30 a.m., Lewis said the store was already moving people along, something he suspected would happen.

The new Lake Lansing Road location is closer to Lewis than the others in the area, and the store's opening fit perfectly into his schedule.

"It kind of conveniently worked out that I needed to come shopping," he said.

Once the complimentary gift bags ran out, customers received a free reusable Aldi bag.

"At our new Lansing ALDI store, customers will see why so many already choose ALDI for their weekly grocery shopping," Regional Vice President Ryan Fritsch said in a release. "As shoppers look to stretch their dollar further, we're excited to open this new location and bring more people a high-quality grocery selection they want and need at the lowest possible price."

The Lake Lansing store is the fourth in the area, with a fifth under construction in Grand Ledge. There are over 100 stores in Michigan.

A new Meijer Express, a souped-up gas station with grab-and-go food options like sandwiches and potstickers, also opened Thursday on Lake Lansing Road, at the Abbot Road intersection about 2 miles away. It features 12 pumps, carries sandwiches from GoodFellas Bagel Deli and even has a machine that dispenses Purple Cow ice cream.

"We are honored to be recognized by customers as the top convenience store brand in the U.S. Customers are increasingly looking for value and convenience, and our mPerks rewards program and Meijer Express stations offer both in a format that is easily accessible while fueling up or on the road," Meijer said in a statement.





Lieza Klemm/City Pulse

Aldi opened a new location last week on Lake Lansing Road.

TOP 5 DINING GUIDE

THE BEST RESTAURANTS IN GREATER LANSING AS DECIDED BY CITY PULSE AND WKAR VOTERS

TOP 5 UPSCALE DINING

Based on your votes in WKAR and City Pulse's 2025 Top of the Town contest. Bon appétit!

1. Bowdie's Chophouse
Intimate steakhouse serving upscale dishes alongside a full wine selection and signature craft cocktails
320 E. Michigan Ave., Lansing
(517) 580-4792
http://bowdieschophouse.com/
5-10 p.m. Sunday-Thursday
5-1 p.m. Friday-Saturday

2. Capital Prime
Swanky steakhouse and seafood restaurant featuring local ingredients
2324 Showtime Drive, Lansing
(517) 377-7463
capitalprimelansing.com
4-10 p.m. Monday-Thursday
4-11 p.m. Friday
2-11 p.m. Saturday
2-9 p.m. Sunday

3. Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant
Elegant restaurant offering steaks, pasta and seafood, with an on-site winery
2101 Lake Lansing Road, Lansing
(517) 536-1555
chwinery.com
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday
11 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday
10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday
10 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday

4. EnVie
Modern French bistro with rotating food, cocktail and wine menus
210 S. Washington Square, Lansing
(517) 318-6135
envie517.com
5-9 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday

5. The English Inn
Cozy fine dining establishment that will transport you to the heart of England
677 S. Michigan Road, Eaton Rapids
(517) 663-2500
englishinn.com
5-10 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday
1-9 p.m. Sunday

She Ate

from page 29

She Ate prefers the mediocre sludge that is soft serve. I'm happy to report that RJ's doesn't offer the latter.

On a return visit, at the recommendation of a friend, I tried the turkey burger ($10.25). This was my favorite item that I tried across all my visits to RJ's. I always find turkey burgers much juicier and more satisfying than beef burgers, and this was no exception. It's rare that a turkey burger is offered on a menu, and I'm curious about the genesis of this relatively unique offering. I also hope that it's popular enough to remain on the menu for the foreseeable future.

Dip into this at your Halloween party



Metro Creative Connection

From METRO CREATIVE CONNECTION

Halloween parties dot many a social schedule come late October, and parties mean food. While it's customary to indulge in a few sweet treats on Halloween, adults may want something with a little nutritional value as well. This Halloween dip with carrots and canapes from Lines+Angles can make the perfect homemade party offering.

Halloween dip with carrots and canapes

Makes four servings

For the dip:

Three large avocados, halved, pitted, peeled and diced
One garlic clove, minced
One lime, juiced
One dash Tabasco sauce
1/2 cup sour cream
3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/2 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
One small handful cilantro, finely chopped

To serve:

Six large carrots
1/2 cup sour cream
One handful stuffed olives, sliced
One handful seedless red grapes, sliced
Five slivered almonds

1. For the dip: Mash together the avocado, garlic, lime juice, Tabasco, sour cream, salt and pepper in a serving bowl until smooth.

2. Stir in the chopped cilantro. Cover and chill until ready to serve.

3. To serve: Peel and cut two carrots into thick coins. Top with sour cream and then olive and grape slices.

4. Cut the remaining carrots into finger shapes. Use a paring knife to shave down the ends into nail beds. Make a thin incision at the end of the nail beds and slide a slivered almond into them to mimic fingernails.

5. Serve the finger carrots in the prepared avocado dip with the carrot coins on the side.

WILLIAMSTOWN TOWNSHIP
Board Meeting Synopsis – October 14, 2026

The Williamstown Township Board held a regular Board Meeting on Wednesday, October 14, 2026 with Supervisor Poth, Clerk Cleveland, Treasurer VanErp, Trustee Brinker, Trustee Creagh, Trustee Duffy, and Trustee Steinberg present. The Board approved the following:

- Consent Agenda
- Re-appointment of Jerry Eidt, Jim Flore, and Toby Weston to the Planning Commission for 3 year terms ending September 30, 2029.
- Site Plan for Barkham Creek Farms
- Farmland & Open Space Program application for property at 4104 Moyer Rd., Williamston, owned by Aaron Jorgenson.
- Police Assessment Roll for the 2026 Winter Tax bills.
- Closed session minutes from the 9-30-26 meeting.

The next regular Board meeting will be held November 18, 2026 at 6:30pm in the Community Room of the Township Hall, 4990 Zimmer Rd., Williamston. Visit williamstownmi.gov for the latest agenda, documents, and updates. Phone (517) 655-3193.

Robin A. Cleveland, MiPMC
Williamstown Township Clerk

CP#26-391





Check out the

Progressive Voters Guide!

ProgressiveVotersGuide.com/Michigan

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